

Spring 4-1-2012

# COM Outlook Spring 2012

College of Osteopathic Medicine

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The background of the entire page is an abstract, textured image. It features a central face, possibly a human or animal, rendered in shades of blue, teal, and green. The face is looking directly forward, with its eyes clearly visible. The overall texture is grainy and painterly, with various shades of blue and green blending together to create a sense of depth and mystery.

# COM Outlook

Spring 2012

Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine

## **The ART of OBSERVATION**

**Innovative Art Pilot Program  
Seeks to Enhance Students'  
Observational Skills**





## Dean's Message

By Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc., FACOPF dist.

When I was invited by Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc., the founding dean of our college, to write the forward for his book *Looking Back...at SECOM*, I was incredibly honored to be offered the opportunity to make a small contribution to this wonderful historical treatise.

There's a famous quote that states, "You don't know where you're going until you know where you have been," which is a precept I wholeheartedly embrace. I've had the distinct pleasure of serving as dean of NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine since 1998, but there is a rich and fascinating history that predates my arrival by approximately two decades.

The creation of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (SECOM), the precursor to NSU-COM, was due to the visionary efforts of a one-man dynamo named Morton Terry, D.O., who worked tirelessly for many years to establish the first college of osteopathic medicine in the southeastern United States before eventually achieving success in 1979.

Dr. Terry had a dream, but he was also wise enough to realize he needed to surround himself with other visionary thinkers who could help make his dream a reality. It's important to remember that the college was founded and nurtured through the supreme sacrifice and dedication of those early administrators, such as Dr. Melnick, Daniel Finkelstein, D.O., Morton J. Morris, D.O., J.D., Emil Todaro, D.O., Albert Weiner, D.O., and Royal Flagg Jonas, J.D. Without the dedicated efforts of the aforementioned administrators and the inaugural faculty members, who helped construct a rock-solid foundation, SECOM, and later NSU-COM, was able to become the esteemed institution it is today.

There's another significant individual who needs to be recognized for his efforts on behalf of the college and the osteopathic medical profession in Florida: Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., who serves as the longtime chancellor of NSU's Health Professions Division. In the years prior to the college being established, osteopathic medicine was still struggling to be fully recognized by the Florida Legislature.

During his 20-year tenure as a Florida House of Representatives member, Dr. Lippman advocated relentlessly to ensure legislative parity for the profession by always referencing Chapter 459, which relates to osteopathic physicians. In fact, because he was such a vigilant advocate for the profession, he became known as the *459 amendment legislator* by his fellow Florida House members. This pivotal piece of legislation helped remove any remaining obstacles to both the growth of the profession and the college.

By writing *Looking Back...at SECOM*, Dr. Melnick has provided us with an opportunity to truly reflect on and appreciate all the supreme efforts that helped create not only an outstanding college of osteopathic medicine, but an exceptional health professions complex comprising six other standout schools. This labor of love will endure as a testament to what can be done in this country if you truly believe and are willing to commit yourself fully to creating an educational institution of excellence.

If we preserve the memory of Dr. Terry and the numerous other pioneers that helped nurture SECOM, then we will be motivated each and every year to make the college the best it can be—and carry on the fine tradition established by those who came before us.

I want to wholeheartedly thank Dr. Melnick, whose affection for the college inspired him to document and make available this very moving historical story of a man, his dream, his team, and the esteemed institution that developed from extremely humble beginnings.

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### COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE

**Anthony J. Silvagni, D.O., Pharm.D., M.Sc.**  
Dean

### EDITOR-IN-CHIEF AND GRAPHIC DESIGNER

**Scott Colton, B.A., APR**  
Director of Medical Communications

### EDITORIAL CONTACT

**Scott Colton**  
(954) 262-5147 (phone)  
(954) 262-3887 (fax)  
[scottc@nova.edu](mailto:scottc@nova.edu)

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## In This Issue - Spring 2012



### **Innovative Art Pilot Program Established**

**20**

When an art lover examines a painting, sculpture, or some other intriguing artistic creation, a vast amount of time is usually spent scrutinizing all facets of the object in great detail. The same can be said about the practice of quality medicine, which also involves a considerable amount of observational skill by a physician.

### **International Medical Rotation in Shanghai**

**22**

In November 2011, OMS-IV Cesar Rosa traveled to Shanghai, China, for a one-month international medical rotation that allowed him to learn an incredible amount about the culture, medical practices, and people of China.

### **Global Medical Outreach Endeavors Enthrall Students**

**24**

In December 2011, NSU-COM coordinated a record four medical outreach trips to medically underserved communities in Argentina, Bangladesh, Jamaica, and Peru. During these humanitarian excursions, second-year medical students took time off from their winter vacations to provide various medical services and health care screenings.

### **From Cuban Rule to Health Care Success: Alina Perez**

**34**

As a child growing up in Cuba under the stifling communist rule of the notorious dictator Fidel Castro in the 1960s, Alina Perez led a life most of us who were born and raised in the United States could never begin to fathom.



## **AREAS OF INTEREST**

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### **NOTICE OF ACCREDITATION**

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## HPD Chancellor's Communiqué — Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.

As we once again approach graduation season, I can't help but think about our perpetual need to review and modify an action plan that creates positive enhancements in our curriculum and program presentation for the student body. To put it simply, the days of creating solid-wall institutions that have no cracks and are impervious to change are over.

One only has to look at health care reform or the various health profession admission tests such as the MCAT (medicine), OAT (optometry), PCAT (pharmacy), or DAT (dental) to realize our nation's health care paradigm is undergoing a significant metamorphosis. There's clearly a resultant change in all these national testing units to seek out not only science-based knowledge but also human-based information that comes from the study of society, culture, and the arts, which makes for more communicative health professions.

As an example, beginning in 2015, the new MCAT exam will include a section on the psychological, social, and biological sciences foundational to the concepts new physicians will need to practice in a rapidly changing health care system. Under the changes approved in February 2012 by the Association of American Medical Colleges' Board of Directors, the exam will also include updated science sections and a new section on critical analysis and reasoning skills that will require students to analyze information in passages from a wide range of social sciences and humanities disciplines, including ethics and philosophy, cross-cultural studies, and population health.

In regard to the various Health Professions Division colleges, we have not only expanded our responsibilities to provide the applied knowledge of the scientific and health care community, but to also reference it in regard to the interaction between the patient and health care professional.

When our graduates receive their diplomas and move on to their individual career goals as licensed health care professionals, we can take pride in knowing we have done our best to provide them with opportunities to work with the most cutting-edge technology available in the clinical environment while also instilling in them the humanity of their profession.

As health care professions evolve, patients are making it known that a return to a more compassionate and humanistic style of care is what they desire—and demand—when it comes to the patient-physician relationship. At NSU's Health Professions Division, our focus is not restricted to training our students to become high-tech, high-quality clinicians and diagnosticians who provide tertiary facility-linked care. While the attainment of the aforementioned abilities is vitally important, it's just as impera-

tive for our students to understand the importance of effectively communicating with their future patients.

Because of the increased demand for health care professionals to possess effective and collaborative communication skills, the colleges and programs housed within NSU's Health Professions Division are positively responding to this charge. For example, in order for students to earn acceptance into the College of Pharmacy, one of the prerequisites is that they completed a course in communications in their undergraduate studies.

Similarly, in the College of Osteopathic Medicine, several communications-based programs have been implemented to enhance these skills for students as well as administrators and faculty and staff members. From a student standpoint, the college implemented the Art Observation Pilot Program in 2011, which is designed to improve students' observational skills. Equally as laudable are the leadership and professionalism classes designed and taught by Dr. Elaine Wallace, which provide students, administrators, and faculty and staff members with an opportunity to become more effective communicators and learners.

One of the primary challenges future graduates will face as they enter their professions is that from a communications perspective, so much has changed within the eight-year or so span of time it took for them to earn their D.O., O.D., or other health professions-related degrees. In my opinion, thanks to the recent advent of social media, we as a society have tended to focus less on our verbal communication skills as we increasingly rely on more impersonal electronic devices to share information. I truly believe this poses a challenge to our health care professionals because most people utilizing primary health care services today are in the second stage of their lives—the baby boomers over the age of 60 who are not cyberphobes but are certainly not cyberphiles. The majority of baby boomers learned to communicate verbally and not through Facebook, Twitter, iPads, iPhones, and other devices.

When I tape a segment of our TV program *Dateline Health*, I always look into the camera and implore the viewers to talk to their health care professionals and verbally share with them what type of over-the-counter medications and nutritional supplements they are taking.

Today's communications technology truly is incredible in terms of its scope, capabilities, and efficiencies; however, it's important for all of us to remember that nothing replaces the merits of verbal, face-to-face communication.

*Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D.*

## DOCUMENTING THE HISTORY OF SECOM

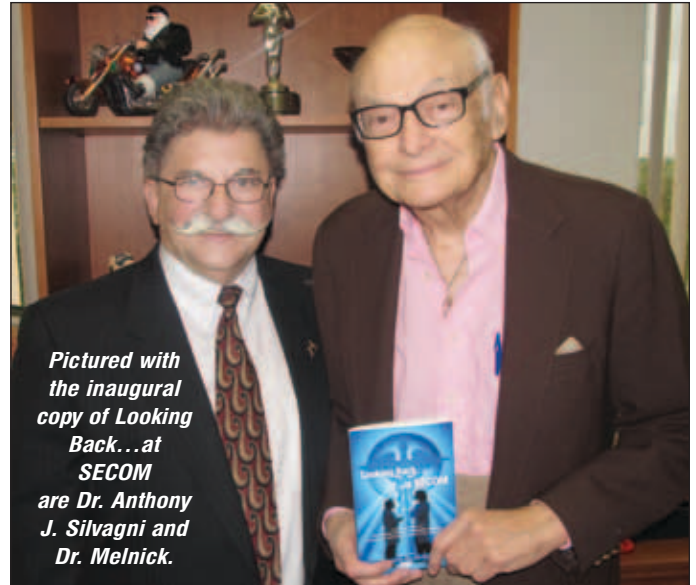
### Dr. Arnold Melnick Publishes Book Tracing NSU-COM's Origins



Over the years, the pages of *COM Outlook* have frequently featured articles related to NSU-COM's origins, including a regular column authored by Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc., FACOP, the college's founding dean. Until recently, a definitive history detailing the birth of Southeastern College of Osteo-

pathic Medicine (SECOM) in 1979—the precursor to NSU-COM—had never existed.

However, with the publication of Dr. Melnick's new book entitled *Looking Back...at SECOM*, all the pertinent details related to the college's formation and growth have been documented for posterity. "This is primarily the life of SECOM, plus



*Pictured with the inaugural copy of Looking Back...at SECOM are Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni and Dr. Melnick.*

a little about where SECOM went when it no longer was just SECOM," writes Dr. Melnick in the tome's preface. "In addition to its origins, I have included a brief view into its early organization. Because this is mostly about human beings—and therefore personal—this book includes an anthology of my "Looking Back" columns that have been published in *COM Outlook*.

In addition to serving as a compendium of his columns, the book provides an overview of SECOM as it metamorphosed from a single school to become Southeastern University of the Health Sciences and ultimately merged with Nova University in 1994 to form an esteemed educational institution named Nova Southeastern University.

Individuals interested in purchasing a copy may do so by visiting AuthorHouse at <http://bookstore.authorhouse.com/AdvancedSearch/Default.aspx?SearchTerm=Looking+Back%e2%80%a6at+SECOM>.

## - NEWS BRIEFS -

In December, **NSU-COM** was appointed as a member of United States Pharmacopeia (USP), becoming the first college of osteopathic medicine in the United States to earn this prestigious honor. The USP is a scientific nonprofit organization that sets standards for the quality, purity, identity, and strength of medicines, food ingredients, and dietary supplements manufactured, distributed, and consumed worldwide. "We are the first COM ever accepted for membership as osteopathic medicine was not eligible until 2011," said Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni, NSU-COM dean. "It took seven years of meeting with USP to reach this goal, which occurred because of the reputation of our college and the accomplishments of our faculty members."

Second-year students **Jamie Mazzurco** and **Fan Zhang** were selected to participate in the college's 2012-13 Predoctoral Research Fellowship Program. During their fellowship year, which will commence on July 2, 2012, Mazzurco and Zhang will have the opportunity to develop an individualized training program, engage in all aspects of the research process, and collaborate with others involved in the research field.

The **NSU-COM/Miami Children's Hospital Osteopathic Pediatric Residency Program** successfully matched and filled its four first-year residency slots. Two of the incoming residents will be fourth-year NSU-COM students Marina Bishai and Jubin Mathews.

The **NSU-COM chapter of the American Medical Student Association (AMSA)** was one of only six chapters nationwide to receive the Chapter Success Paul R. Wright Award, which recognizes outstanding chapters that support AMSA's mission and are dedicated to inspiring future physician leaders, whether through local events, programming activities, leadership development initiatives, or calls for action. NSU-COM was the only osteopathic medical school to receive the award in 2012.

According to the **South Florida Business Journal's 2012 Book of Lists**, Nova Southeastern University ranks number one in the tri-county area in regard to M.B.A enrollment. NSU also is the sixth-largest university, with a fall 2011 enrollment of 29,000, and ranks number 21 in the largest employer category.



## Student Organization Substance Abuse Curriculum Benefits South Florida Youth



In December 2010, a team of four NSU-COM students involved in both the Student National Medical Association and the Addiction Medicine Club began collaborating on an idea to reach out to sanctioned youth and enlighten them on the perils of substance abuse. The collaborators—OMS-II Charee' Howard, M.Sc., OMS-II Jennifer Wellington, OMS-II Francesca Okolie, M.P.H., and OMS-III N'aimah Wajd—devised a curriculum comprising four interactive segments to captivate an audience

of at-risk children between the ages of 11 and 17 at the Lippman Youth Shelter in Oakland Park, Florida. The four segments allow the NSU-COM students to provide practical information regarding the understanding of addiction, approaches to decision making, avoiding peer pressure, and strategies to cope with adverse and/or stressful situations.

The project's primary goal, which came to fruition following a meeting student doctor Howard had with other NSU-COM student leaders and past

Lippman Youth Shelter directors, was to empower children as they combat difficult issues. To accomplish this task, the aforementioned students agreed to volunteer one Friday evening a month at the Lippman Youth Shelter to make multifaceted presentations to the attendees.

In August 2011, because the curriculum was so well received, the NSU-COM student quartet decided it was time to expand the program and offer these enriching volunteer opportunities to other first- and second-year students through an application process. The selected members—OMS-I Tania Espinal, OMS-I Christopher Pare, OMS-I Pete Stuaves, OMS-II Charles Cevallos, and OMS-II Jessica Wilbur—shared a common interest in addressing substance abuse from many different angles.

"While we may not be able to eliminate the traumatic experiences the youth have encountered, we'd like to plant a seed to help them navigate the world and meet their full potential," said program originators Jennifer Wellington and Charee' Howard. "Based on our interactions with the youth and the feedback we've received from counselors and/or directors, we're confident our small contributions have positively impacted the children's lives in a major way."

## New Osteopathic Residency Training Programs at Larkin

In January, Larkin Community Hospital (LCH) in South Miami and NSU's College of Osteopathic Medicine received approval from the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) for the creation of several new osteopathic residency training programs. The AOA granted the hospital approval to create new residency programs in anesthesiology, physical medicine and rehabilitation, radiology, and sports medicine that will commence on July 1, 2012.

In additional Larkin news, Joel D. Stein, D.O., FAAO, FAOASM, FACOFP, clinical associate professor of family medicine, has taken on the responsibility of establishing and populating the hospital's new sports medicine fellowship, while Steven Licata, D.O., clinical assistant professor of family medicine, has been named program director for neuromusculoskeletal medicine. In related news, Jose Diaz, D.O., clinical assistant professor and chair of NSU-COM's Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, has been appointed program director for the new physical medicine and rehabilitation residency program at Larkin.



## Osteopathic Medicine Day in Tallahassee Informs Students



*By OMS-II Erin McClary*

*Pictured at the Osteopathic Medicine Day reception are NSU-COM students Angelina Somoracki (OMS-II), Erin McClary (OMS-III), Mark Liwanag (OMS-II), Lindsay LaCorte (OMS-IV), Carisa Lippmann (OMS-II), and Susan Thomas (OMS-I).*

On January 18, the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association coordinated its annual Osteopathic Medicine Day in Tallahassee. Six NSU-COM students joined forces with students from LECOM-Bradenton and physicians throughout Florida to spread awareness of osteopathic medicine and our legal stance as osteopathic physicians. During our time in Tallahassee,

we were also able to learn about the inner workings of Florida's lawmaking process from our legislators.

The FOMA contingent met with Bob Ward, clerk of the Florida House of Representatives in the House Chamber, where we sat in the seats of congressmen and learned about the unique challenges of being the clerk. We then had the opportunity to meet

with Senator Mike Haridopolos, president of the Florida Senate, who gave us a history lesson on the Senate and its past presidents, whose portraits line the wall of the Senate Chamber. At the end of the day, Jeff Atwater, chief financial officer, spoke with our group about some current issues that affect Florida physicians and how the state legislature is handling them.

Overall, Osteopathic Medicine Day in Tallahassee was a monumental success. Osteopathic students and physicians were able to speak with their legislators and put faces to the bills that affect us all. As a second-year osteopathic medical student, I can personally say it was a valuable learning experience. I now understand the importance of being proactive in my profession, especially with the legal issues that not only will affect me, but my future colleagues as well. I urge all NSU-COM students to attend future Osteopathic Medicine Days and to be involved in their local and state legislature.

### 25 Years

Marysel Sierra

### 20 Years

Pattie Murray, Dr. Howard Neer, Debbi Steinkohl

### 15 Years

Ricardo Arriaza, Dr. Peter Cohen, Dr. Kenneth Johnson, and Dr. Margaret Wilkinson

### 10 Years

Dr. Rene Alexis, Georgia Carter-Campbell, Kelvin Gross, Nichole McCalla, Dr. Edward Packer, Alina Perez, Sheri Schour, and Evelyn Walker

### 5 Years

Dr. David Boesler, Christine Bohentin, Kacian Campbell, Rochelle Clinton, Ghazala Farooq, Linda Ferrante, Joseph O'Connor, Jessica Ortiz, Elizabeth Oviawe, Alfredo Rehbein, and Dr. Cecilia Rokusek

## Employee Luncheon Honors Longevity



**On January 24, the college coordinated an employee recognition luncheon to honor those individuals who celebrated significant employment milestones in 2011.**





**COM Outlook is proud to unveil a new quarterly column, written by an alumnus of the NSU Shepard Broad Law Center, which will address health care issues of interest to current NSU-COM students. "As a fellow NSU graduate, it's my honor and pleasure to be able to share with you through this new column a few practical tips that may help you better prepare for your future career in medicine," Segal stated. "I welcome your comments and feedback."**

Fred Segal is an attorney in the Miami office of the statewide law firm Broad and Cassel, where he is a member of the Health Law Practice Group. After earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Florida, he earned his Juris Doctorate from NSU's Shepard Broad Law Center and then completed a Master of Law degree in Health Law at Widener University School of Law in Wilmington, Delaware, in 2008. He may be reached at [fsegal@broadandcassel.com](mailto:fsegal@broadandcassel.com) or (305) 373-9477.

## THE HEALTH CARE LEGAL EAGLE

### *Practical Tips for Your Future in Medicine*

By Fred Segal, Esq.  
Health Law Attorney, Broad and Cassel

#### ***Patient Satisfaction: It's No Longer Just Warm and Fuzzy—It's the Law!***

**T**he practice of medicine is evolving at a rapid pace. Today's medical students are wise to be aware of these changes and the opportunities and challenges they present. The government has taken an active role in shaping the way physicians will practice in the future. In the coming years, there likely will be even less freedom as to **how** you would like to practice medicine than there is today. As a result, the time is **now**, even though you're still a student, to begin consciously thinking about the way you will need to practice medicine in the future.

As you probably know, the Obama administration is encouraging providers, such as hospitals and physicians, to begin delivering a better quality of care at a lower cost. The historic first step taken by Congress was to pass the controversial Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA), signed into law by President Barack Obama in 2010. Due to constitutionality and presidential election issues, the future of the ACA is at this moment a bit uncertain. However, it is currently the law and, regardless of ACA's fate, there is little doubt that physicians will continue to be pressured to practice medicine in a manner that will focus on lower costs and higher quality as well as higher patient satisfaction. As osteopathic students, you are already ahead of the game thanks to the college's focus on holistic patient care.

However, the question remains as to how the government expects a physician to enhance the quality of care and, at the same time, reduce health care costs. The first step will be to phase out fee-for-service medicine and begin paying providers based on performance and measurable patient results. Physicians that are unable to achieve favorable outcomes will be penalized financially.

The Medicare Shared Savings Program was the first push the ACA legislation made in this "results-driven" direction. This program allows accountable care organizations (ACOs) to contract with Medicare beginning in 2012. An ACO basically is a group of providers that work together to coordinate care for a certain population of beneficiaries. They agree to share in savings or losses associated with the care for those beneficiaries. While most physicians may not take part in ACOs right away, the big picture is crystal clear: Physicians in the future will have to

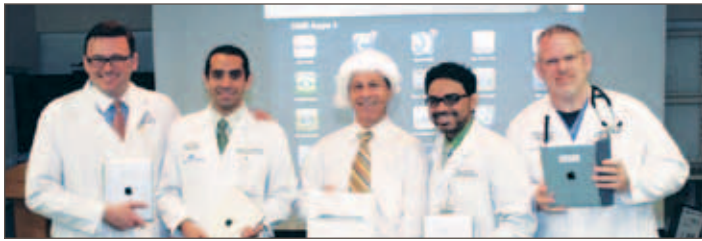
focus on outstanding *performance*. When the government discusses *performance*, it means quality care at a low cost. One of the key quality elements is obtaining a high rate of patient satisfaction.

Patient satisfaction, as you've already been taught and instinctively know, is an important part of any practice. Needless to say, it's hard to operate a successful medical practice if the patients are not satisfied. Future physicians that possess sharp patient interaction skills and know how to build relationships of trust with each patient will be the most successful, while bedside manner will be as critical as scientific know-how in the future. In addition, training staff in excellent customer service will be as important in the medical field as it is today in hospitality.

Already, we can see the impact the ACA is having on private payers. Managed care plans already have instituted new payment methodologies that compensate physicians based on *performance*. According to the ACA, high levels of performance can be achieved with a few simple steps:

- make sure your care is convenient, efficient, and reliable
- take the time to teach your patients about preventive care
- coordinate care with the other physicians in your practice, as well as the patient's primary care physician, as creating a team approach to patient care is critical in the new medical model
- embrace technology, such as electronic medical records and online scheduling, and understand how it can benefit your practice
- consistently follow-up with patients
- be accessible to your patients
- survey patients on a regular basis (try to find out what they really think about; you might be surprised.)

Many questions remain unanswered in this new world where patient satisfaction may determine your paycheck. The future is clear, however, for today's medical students. You will be among the best compensated if you continue to focus on learning how to create a satisfying experience for your patients.



## HPD LIBRARY LINK

### *There Is an “i” in Our Team—iPad*

By Kristin Kroger, M.L.I.S., HPD Librarian and Liaison to the College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Amanda Chiplock, M.L.I.S., Emerging Technologies Librarian

In the fall of 2010, Kaye Robertson, M.L.S., HPD Library executive director, saw the potential benefits of utilizing the iPad in the academic medical setting and started an iPad Initiative Group consisting of HPD faculty and staff members and librarians to create a forum to explore and discuss potential classroom and clinical iPad uses and also to encourage interdepartmental cooperation and collaboration. The library also decided to purchase 10 iPad2s and put them into the hands of HPD librarians—and eventually HPD faculty and staff members and students—to explore their effectiveness at HPD.

Through the combined efforts of the librarians, various faculty members, and several students, the group has implemented iPad projects and trainings while also promoting mobile library resources and the evaluation of medical apps. The iPad Initiative Group has met several times and has rapidly grown in attendance and popularity throughout the seven HPD colleges. A stronger and more open communication with the Office of Information Technology has been one of the many side benefits that has grown out of this initiative.

On February 1, the HPD Library hosted the latest iPad Initiative Group meeting in the HPD Chancellor's Dining Room. It wasn't the first meeting of this group, but it seemed to be one of the most inspirational and informative. The event agenda included three keynote speakers: Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI, assistant professor of internal medicine at NSU-COM, Joel Slingbaum, D.M.D., clinical assistant professor of endodontics at the College of Dental Medicine, and Adrienne Lauer, Ed.D., assistant professor of occupational therapy at the College of Health Care Sciences. Following is a brief summary of their enlightening presentations:

#### **iPads for NSU Residents and Fellows at Palmetto General Hospital**

Dr. Hasty started his presentation by stating it was his belief that these mobile devices are going to revolutionize medical education for the health professional. His presentation covered some problems being experienced at Palmetto General Hospital, the plan to solve these problems with iPads for residents, and the implementation and outcomes of the program.

#### **Apple TV and iPads in Education**

Dr. Slingbaum discussed his experiences with a pilot program in the College of Dental Medicine incorporating an iPad and an Apple TV device into a classroom. This technology was a solution for the instructors, who were feeling as if they were tethered to the teaching podium. It allowed them the freedom to walk around the classroom while teaching, yet provided them access to notes and software/apps all in the palms of their hands.

#### **Adapting iPads for Health South Spinal Cord Injury Patients**

Dr. Lauer received a Quality of Life grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation to provide iPads to spinal cord injury patients and adapt the devices to meet the needs of each individual, allowing for increased independence and quality of life.

This presentation was streamed live using one of the librarian's iPads and employing a free app called UStream to allow off-campus faculty and staff members to watch it. An archive of this recording can be viewed at <http://www.ustream.tv/user/HPDLibrary>. The session was also recorded using an HD video camera by an HPD Library staff member and was later edited and uploaded to the HPD Library's YouTube channel, which can be accessed at <http://www.youtube.com/user/HPDLibrary>. The HPD Library plans to continue building upon the iPad Initiative and hopes to inspire more projects and initiatives throughout the university.

To learn more about the iPad Initiative Group, or to reserve an iPad for checkout from the HPD Library, please contact Kristin Kroger at [kk663@nova.edu](mailto:kk663@nova.edu) or extension 23117 or Amanda Chiplock at [ac1815@nova.edu](mailto:ac1815@nova.edu) or extension 23122.





# Biomedical Informatics Program News of Note

## Dr. Daniel Hatton Receives Alumni Award



On January 19, during NSU's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration of Excellence event, Daniel K. Hatton, Ph.D., an adjunct associate professor of biomedical informatics, received the Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award from NSU's Graduate School of Computer and Information Sciences, which is where he earned his Ph.D. in Information Systems and Management in 1991.

## Monty Islam Earns HIMSS Scholarship

Monty Islam, M.S.B.I. ('10) a graduate of the college's Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics (M.S.B.I.) program, received a significant honor at the 2012 Health Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Annual Conference and Exhibition, which was held February 20-24 in Las Vegas, Nevada. During the event, Islam was one of several individuals selected nationwide as a recipient of a \$5,000 HIMSS Foundation Scholarship. This marks the second consecutive year an NSU-COM biomedical informatics student or graduate received this prestigious honor.

## Clarissa Alexander Secures NIH Internship



Clarissa Alexander, a current M.S.B.I. student, was awarded an internship at the National Human Genome Research Institute—a division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)—that will commence in the summer of 2012. The NIH is esteemed as one of the world's principal medical research hubs and it is at the heart of federal medical research conducted in the

United States. This rare and unique experience will allow Alexander to enhance her skills and strengthen her knowledge base in relevant biomedical informatics research.

## M.S.B.I. At OMEL Conference

On January 13, NSU-COM hosted the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Osteopathic Medical Education Leadership Conference session on "Using EMRs to Improve Clinical Practice." Various faculty members, students, and alumni from the M.S.B.I. program participated. Volunteers distributed information while networking with fellow students and colleagues. The session was chaired by Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc., who serves as director of the college's M.S.B.I. program.

## Miami-Dade EHR Symposium Participation

On January 31, eight M.S.B.I. students and alumni participated in the Third Annual Electronic Health Record Symposium held in Miami, Florida. The symposium showcased hands-on experience with new technologies, provided networking opportunities to students, and brought physicians and experts together to discuss the finalization of meaningful use, electronic health record (EHR) vendor certification, and policy changes related to informatics in health care. The symposium sought to educate and prepare students to assist physicians with the implementation and training of EHRs.



## M.S.B.I. at HIMSS Conference

M.S.B.I. students, alumni, and faculty/staff members attended the Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society (HIMSS) Annual Conference & Exhibition held February 20-24 in Las Vegas, Nevada. The conference included 300-plus education sessions, over 1,000 exhibitors, and ample networking opportunities with the more than 37,000 attendees.



## Strategic Planning Session

On February 16, the M.S.B.I. program held a strategic planning meeting to review the program's current goals and plans for the future. The session was facilitated by Kristi Messer, M.P.H., M.S.W., assistant project director of the college's Institute for Disaster and Emergency Preparedness, and hosted by Leonard Levy, D.P.M., M.P.H., associate dean of education, planning, and research.

# Students Earn Accolades at FOMA Convention

During the 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) Convention, held February 23-26 at the Hyatt Regency Bonaventure in Weston, a number of NSU-COM students were honored with various awards, including Mara Bozza, Lindsay LaCorte, Carisa Lippmann, Kelli McCarrell, Erin McClary, and Zachary Virgin.

## Lippmann, McClary Win FOMA Student Awards

Winners of the FOMA Student Awards, which are presented each year to two NSU-COM students, were OMS-II Carisa Lippmann and OMS-II Erin McClary, who each received a \$500 cash award. The FOMA Student Awards are based on criteria such as possessing leadership skills, supporting FOMA student district society initiatives, and showcasing significant interest in the osteopathic profession and osteopathic manipulative medicine.



Erin McClary (left) and Carisa Lippmann pose with Jeffrey Grove, D.O., FOMA president and a 1990 NSU-COM alumnus.

## Florida Hospital East Orlando Scholarships

Two third-year students who completed a core rotation at Florida Hospital East Orlando—Kelli McCarrell and Zachary Virgin—each received a \$5,000 scholarship from the Osteopathic Foundation of East Orlando for demonstrating excellence in leadership and academics. The scholarship is awarded to third-year core medical students from NSU-COM based on criteria such as exemplary grade-point average, personal statement, letters of recommendation, and curriculum vitae.



Pictured (from left) are Ronald Burns, D.O., FOMA Convention program co-chairman, Dr. Jeffrey Grove, Brian Ware (LECOM student recipient), Kelli McCarrell, Zachary Virgin, and Martin Levine, D.O., AOA president.

## LaCorte Nabs Oliva Scholarship

OMS-IV Lindsay LaCorte was a recipient of the inaugural \$1,000 FOMA Marcelino Oliva, Jr., D.O., Student Scholarship and Award, which honors students who advance and promote the practices and principles of osteopathic medicine, showcase dedication to continuing Dr. Oliva's vision, and epitomize the qualities of commitment, passion, and involvement in the political and legislative process.



Pictured (from left) are Michael Venezia (LECOM student), Dr. Jeffrey Grove, Lora Lee Oliva (Dr. Oliva's widow), and Lindsay LaCorte.

## Bozza Receives AFOMA Scholarship

In another show of NSU-COM strength, OMS-IV Mara Bozza was named the winner of a \$500 AFOMA Believes in You Scholarship Award, which is presented by the Advocates of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (AFOMA). The award is partly based on a student's interest in osteopathic medicine, activities in the profession, and leadership abilities.



Mara Bozza with Gary Novotny, president of the Advocates of the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association.



## NSU-COM Launches Interprofessional Leadership Program



In January, NSU-COM's Center for Interprofessional Education and Practice launched the Interprofessional Leadership Program (ILP), which is open to health professions students concurrently pursuing a Master of Public Health degree. The joint degree program provides students with critical training in cultural competencies and population health knowledge, as well as interprofessional core competencies and leadership skills. The first cohort of 17 ILP members was selected in January.

Program members gain exposure to interprofessional scholarship through the Interprofessional Journal Club and dialogue on hot topics in health care with speakers from across the health professions at the monthly HPD Connections Cafe. As part of the leadership development included in the program, ILP members have the opportunity to host these programs. ILP member and OMS-II Crystal Martin led the February Interprofessional Journal Club on legal issues related to interprofessional practice. ILP members Ravi Patel (OMS-I) and Weber Wu (OMS-I) led the January

HPD Connections Cafe on "An Interprofessional Look at Patient Safety," while OMS-II Eric Chung and OMS-II Carisa Lippmann led the February HPD Connections Cafe on "Getting to Know Your Future Team."

By providing this interprofessional training, NSU-COM is ahead of the pack in preparing the next generation of physicians for a changing health care landscape. In a significant change announced recently by the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC), beginning in 2015, the MCAT exam will include a section on relevant concepts from the psychological and social sciences, as well as require students to analyze passages addressing ethics, cross-cultural studies, and population health. According to Darrell G. Kirch, M.D., AAMC president and CEO, "Being a good doctor is about more than scientific knowledge. It also requires an understanding of people."

The Institute of Medicine has noted that physicians need not only to understand their patients, but also their colleagues within the health care system, and has called for medical students to receive interprofessional education to

prepare them for collaborative, team-based practice. Interprofessional education involves students from two or more professions learning about, from, and with each other to enable effective collaboration and thereby improve health outcomes.

Students interested in applying to the program can contact Kimberly Valenti (program recruiter) at [kimberly.valenti@nova.edu](mailto:kimberly.valenti@nova.edu) or via phone at (954) 262-1650. The ILP is supported by federal funding from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

### - NEWS BRIEFS -

According to the **American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians (ACOFP)**, the 2012 American Osteopathic Association Intern/Resident Registration Program results reveal another uptick in the number of osteopathic medical students selecting family medicine for their residencies. The new statistics show that 433 family medicine positions are filled out of 735 available, or 58.9 percent. The fill rate in 2011 was 52.8 percent; in 2010, it was only 48.7 percent. Family medicine claims the highest number of filled positions with 433, followed by internal medicine with 369, and emergency medicine with 214. Family medicine filled 29.3 percent of the osteopathic positions available—an increase from 27.7 percent in 2011 and 2010.

On January 30, first-year medical students in the **Medicine, Health, and Society** course were joined by students from physical therapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, and dental medicine for a two-hour session on "Interprofessional Practice." Following an introductory lecture, which included video clips from HPD students on professional roles and attitudes, the students worked in breakout groups to discuss a case study from the perspective of their different responsibilities on the health care team. Faculty members from the College of Health Care Sciences, the College of Pharmacy, and the College of Dental Medicine joined NSU-COM faculty and staff members in facilitating the breakout sessions, making it a truly interprofessional program.

## Renowned Researcher Dr. Nancy Klimas Joins Forces with NSU-COM



*Dr. Nancy Klimas*

Over the past several years, NSU-COM has greatly expanded its research efforts. In December 2011, the college's extension into the research realm increased dramatically with the hiring of Nancy Klimas, M.D., one of the world's leading researchers and clinicians in chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME).

One of her major initiatives since joining the college's faculty has been the creation of the NSU-COM Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, which is conducting cutting-edge research and treating patients suffering from CFS/ME and Gulf War Illness (GWI). In addition, the Chronic Fatigue Center—one of only several centers of its kind in the United States—will become a component of the NSU clinical health care system under the auspices of the Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine.

A majority of the one million CFS/ME sufferers in the United States are women, who remain mostly untreated. The debilitating disorder damages the patient's immune system and causes symptoms such as extreme fatigue unabated by sleep, faintness, widespread muscle and joint pain, sore throat, severe headaches, cogni-

tive difficulties, and severe mental and physical exhaustion. Dr. Klimas also is a leading national researcher on Gulf War Illness, which is a medical condition affecting veterans and civilians who were exposed to a number of triggers, such as chemical weapons, during the 1991 Gulf War. Symptoms include musculoskeletal pain, fatigue, skin rashes, cognitive problems, and diarrhea.

The institute will use the integration of research, training, and clinical care to advance the needs of patients suffering from CFS/ME and GWI. By bringing together some of the best scientific minds in the world, the facility will act as both a think tank and a working institute for the research, train new clinicians, and provide diagnostic and therapeutic clinical care.

"The Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine, strategically placed at NSU-COM, will bring together great minds in the field of neuro-immune disorders under one umbrella," said Dr. Klimas. "It will be a place to coordinate cutting-edge thinking and research, train new practitioners, and offer the highest quality clinical care for a hugely underserved population. I am thrilled to partner with NSU in this giant step forward in the field of CFS/ME care and research."

Dr. Klimas, who also serves as the director of research for both the clinical AIDS/HIV research and Gulf War Illness research programs at the Miami Veterans Affairs Medical Center, joined the NSU-COM faculty team following a long stint at the University of Miami (UM). During her UM research career, Dr. Klimas was the principal investigator of the National Institutes of Health's Center for Multidisci-

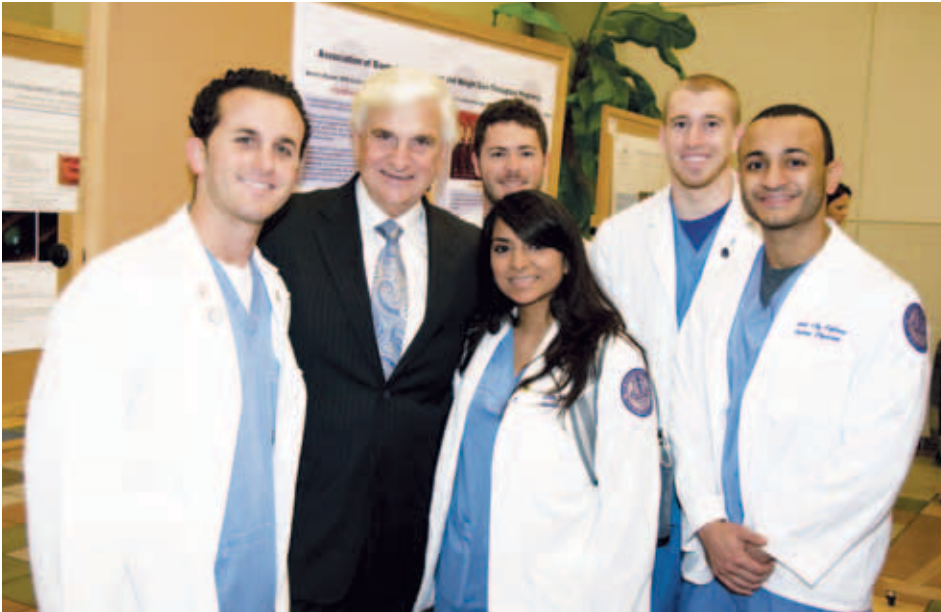
plinary Studies of CFS Pathophysiology at UM and is currently funded to use genomics to better understand the cause of persistent illness in both CFS/ME and GWI.

In addition to the aforementioned activities, Dr. Klimas serves as a senior member of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Advisory Committee—a role in which she provides advice and recommendations to Kathleen Sebelius, M.P.A., the U.S. secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. Throughout her prolific career, Dr. Klimas has served two terms as president of the International Association for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, published over 150 peer-reviewed scientific articles, 18 book chapters, and three books. Her research has not only influenced health policy in the United States, but also in Europe, Japan, Australia, and Canada.





### Investigative Collaboration on Display at HPD Research Day



**O**n February 10, the NSU Health Professions Division coordinated its third Research Day event, which attracted an estimated 2,600 live and videoconference attendees to the HPD campus and featured 118 poster and platform presentations.

Research Day, which is coordinated by Patrick Hardigan, Ph.D., HPD executive director of assessment, evaluation, and faculty development, and Kathleen Hagen, M.M., HPD director of faculty development, allows the seven HPD colleges to spotlight the various research projects that are germinating through the creativity of their faculty members, students, and collaborative partners. According to Dr. Hardigan, “Research Day has helped NSU identify gifted researchers who have made new discoveries that have greatly impacted society,” he explained. “The event has also helped launch many research and academic careers.”

The event’s keynote speaker was DeWitt C. Baldwin, Jr., M.D., scholar-in-residence at the Accreditation

Council for Graduate Medical Education. Over the past several decades, Dr. Baldwin has dedicated his time to researching the learning experiences of medical residents via surveys and conducting studies on resident sleep patterns, fatigue, and work-life balance.

As has been the case at every Research Day, the College of Osteopathic Medicine played an integral role in the event, with Gabriel Suciu, Ph.D., M.S.P.H., associate professor in the Master of Public Health Program, serving as the point person for all NSU-COM-related oral and poster presentations. In all, NSU-COM students and faculty members contributed 17 oral and 15 poster presentations to the event—the most of any HPD college.

Because most health professionals hope to become clinicians once they complete their various educational requirements, Hagen sees added value in coordinating such a vital research event every two years. “Most students are working toward becoming clinicians, but if they have a chance to

learn about this other area they can get into and broaden their horizons, I believe we can play a role in nurturing a new generation of researchers,” she explained. “They just need the exposure to see how it’s done and how to pursue the research path if that’s something that interests them.”

“There are not enough physicians doing research today, especially D.O.s, so if we could inspire some of our students to pursue a research career, that would be a great outcome,” Dr. Hardigan said. “If even one or two students gain an interest in doing research based on what they learned during Research Day, we’ve accomplished our goal.”

Four NSU-COM students earned HPD Research Day awards—as well as \$100 Barnes & Noble gift cards—for their stellar work. They are:

**OMS-IV Lindsay Lacorte**  
(Platform Presentation)

“Vaginal Cuff Dehiscence in Patients Undergoing Total Robotic and Laparoscopic Hysterectomy and the Use of Bidirectional Barbed Suture.”

**OMS-I Tania Espinal**  
(Poster Presentation)

“What Is the Effect of Surgery vs. Surgery + Adjuvant Therapy on the Colorectal Patient Outcome”

**OMS-I Vishall Patel**  
(Poster Presentation)

“Sequential Variability in Localized Thigh Skin Dermal Tissue Water”

**OMS-II Guo Xiaoran**  
(Poster Presentation)

“Forearm Skin Tissue Dielectric Constant: Effect of Changes in Vascular Volume and Skin Blood Perfusion”

## NSU-COM Masters the Competition at FOMA Poster Contest

**D**uring the 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention, which was held February 23-26 at the Hyatt Regency Bonaventure in Weston, Florida, NSU-COM and its affiliated postgraduate programs nabbed 7 of the 9 research prizes up for grabs at the association's Second Annual Resident and Student Research Poster Competition. Additionally, 47 of the 54 poster entries were from NSU-COM students or Consortium for Excellence in Medical Education/OPTI residents.

Janet Hamstra, Ed.D., assistant professor of internal medicine and director of preclinical education, served as the competition's head judge. Three other NSU-COM faculty members also judged the event along with three representatives from the Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine-Bradenton. The NSU-COM judges were John Pellosie, Jr., D.O., M.P.H., FAOCOPM, director of graduate programs, Cyril Blavo, D.O., M.P.H. and T.M., FACOP, director of the college's Master of Public Health Program, and Tye Barber, D.O., Ph.D., assistant professor of family practice and OMT. Students, residents, and affiliated OPTI programs from various osteopathic colleges were judged in three categories:

- ☺ Osteopathic Resident Case Study
- ☺ Osteopathic Medical Student Case Study
- ☺ Osteopathic Medical Student Experimental Research

Nine winners were selected, with first-, second-, and third-place honorees receiving cash awards of \$750, \$250, and \$100, respectively.

In addition, a new Future of Osteopathic Medicine Award, which was presented to the research study that best advances the principles and practices of osteopathic medicine, was bestowed upon NSU-COM's postgraduate affiliate Larkin Community Hospital. The winning study, entitled "OMT and Prolotherapy Treatment in HIV-Associated Axial Skeletal Pain," was authored by **Felicia C. Temuru, D.O.** (PGY-I), Malissa Barbosa, D.O. (PGY-II), and Darin Bush, D.O.

Following are the NSU-COM-affiliated poster winners in their respective categories. First authors/presenters are listed in **bold**.

### Resident Case Study

#### First Place

*"Non-Traumatic Vertebral Fractures in a Young Male: An Atypical Presentation of Celiac Disease Unveiling Polyglandular Auto-immune Syndrome Type IV"*



*Pictured (from left) are Dr. Felicia C. Temuru, Dr. Naz Gandikal, Dr. Pamela Moran-Walcutt, John Yoon, Mark Weiss (KCUMB student), Matthew Uhde, R. Sterling Haring (LECOM student), and Lauren Kaczmarczyk. (Not pictured are Dr. Erin Connor and Emily Young).*

**Naz Gandikal, D.O.** (PGY-II) (Florida Hospital East Orlando – Family Medicine Resident) and Theodore Lee, M.D.

#### Second Place

*"Acute Narrow Angle Glaucoma: A Diagnostic Dilemma"*

**Pamela Moran-Walcutt, D.O.** (PGY-III) (Palmetto General Hospital – Family Medicine Resident), Peter Cohen, D.O., Nadine Chipon-Schoep, D.O., and Victor Jaffe, D.O.

#### Third Place

*"Left Ventricular Noncompaction"*

**Erin Connor, D.O., M.P.H.** (Mount Sinai Medical Center – Internal Medicine), Jerry M. Cajina, D.O. (PGY-III), Andrea Apple, D.O., and Tina Spires, D.O.

### Student Case Study

#### First Place

*"Adult T-Cell Leukemia/Lymphoma MRSA Opportunistic Infection Masquerading as Diabetic Cellulitis"*

**OMS-III Matthew Uhde, PA-C**, and Jamie Bosma, D.O. (PGY-III)

#### Third Place

*"Unsuspected Complications from Emergent Bowel Resection Secondary to Diverticulitis"*

**OMS-III John Yoon**

### Student Experimental Research

#### First Place

*"The Reproductive Health Seminar Program: Evaluating its Impact on Participating Health Professional Student Educators and the Youth They Serve in South Florida"*

**OMS-III Emily Young, M.A.T.**, OMS-II Katherine Beditz, and Andrea Schaeffer (M.P.H. student)

#### Third Place

*"Skin Tissue Dielectric Constant Measurements as a Non-Invasive Method to Detect Early Lymphedema in Women Treated for Breast Cancer"*

**OMS-I Lauren Kaczmarczyk, M.S.**, OMS-I Tania Espinal, M.S., Lidice B. Lopez, P.A., Daniel N. Weingrad, M.D., and Harvey N. Mayrovitz, Ph.D.



# Research Highlights - Faculty and Student Achievements



**1 Cheryl Atherley-Todd, M.D.**, assistant professor of family medicine, had her article entitled "Treatment of Dementia" published in the winter 2011 issue of *Florida Family Physician*, which is the official publication of the Florida Academy of Family Physicians.



**2 Stanley Cohen, Ed.D., M.Ed.**, HPD executive vice dean for educational support, presented a lecture on "Flexing Teaching Style to Improve Learning" at the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences Worker Education and Training Program Trainers' Exchange meeting, which took place March 27-29 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**3 Rosebud Foster, Ed.D., M.S.N.**, professor of public health and family medicine and special assistant to the HPD chancellor, discussed the topic "Health Care Leadership and Policy Past, Present, and Future" on December 13 at the National Association of Health Services Executives Educational Forum held at Broward General Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. In addition, she was reappointed as chairperson to the legislatively mandated State Advisory



Committee on Closing the Gap: Reducing Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities by the Florida Department of Health and continues to serve on the Governor's Gold Seal Panel on Excellence in Long Term Care.

**4 OMS-IV Wesley M. Gladin** served as senior author of an article entitled "Knee Bracing Benefits Off-Road Motorcyclists" that appeared in the January 2012 issue of *Lower Extremity Review*.

**5 Janet Hamstra, Ed.D.**, assistant professor of internal medicine and director of preclinical education, presented a lecture entitled "Electronic Communication: Physicians, Patients, Computers, and Learners" at the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Osteopathic Medical Education Leadership Conference held January 12-14 in Fort Lauderdale. **Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI**, assistant professor of internal medicine and program director of the Palmetto General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program, also presented a lecture, which was entitled "25 OME-Related Applications (APPs) in 25 Minutes." In addition, both Drs. Hamstra and Hasty served on the symposium's steering committee.



**6 Robert Hasty, D.O., FACOI**, assistant professor of internal medicine and program director of the Palmetto General Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program, coauthored an article entitled "Graduating Osteopathic Medical Students' Perceptions and Recommendations on the Decision to Take the United States Medical Licensing Examination." The article, which appeared in the February 2012 issue of the *Journal of the American Osteopathic Association (JAOA)*, was coauthored by **Samuel Snyder, D.O., FACP, FACOI, FASN, Gabriel Suciu, Ph.D., M.S.P.H.**, and **OMS-III Jaclynn Moskow**.



**7 Robin J. Jacobs, Ph.D., M.S.W.**, assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine, preventive medicine, biomedical informatics, and public health, coauthored a number of articles that appeared in an array of recent publications. They include "Correlates of Loneliness in Older Gay and Bisexual Men" in the *Journal of Gay & Lesbian Social Services*, "Perceptions of the Humanness of Religious Leaders Among University Students" in the *Journal of*



*Spirituality and Mental Health*, and "Pastoral Care Professionals in Health and Mental Health Care: Recognizing Classic and Newer Versions of Ageism" in the *Journal of Pastoral Care and Counseling*. She also coauthored "The Role of Multiple Identities in Engagement in Care Among Gay/Bisexual Male Adolescents Living with HIV," which was published in *AIDS and Behavior*, and "Development of an Easy to Use Tool to Assess Adolescents' HIV Treatment Readiness in Clinical Care Settings," which appeared in *AIDS Care*.



**8 Merrill A. Krolick, D.O.**, clinical assistant professor of internal medicine and program director of the Largo Medical Center Interventional Cardiology Fellowship, had his coauthored research abstract entitled "Pegnivacogin Results in Near Complete FIX Inhibition in Acute Coronary Syndrome Patients: RADAR Pharmacokinetic and Pharmacodynamic Substudy" published in a recent issue of the *European Heart Journal*.



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**9 Alan M. Lazar, M.D., FACS**, clinical assistant professor of surgery, recently published a book entitled *Beyond the Knife: Alternatives to Surgery*. Over the past few months, he has appeared on several local news programs and was profiled in an article entitled "Orthopedic Surgeon Takes Creativity Outside the OR" in *Physician's Money Digest*. In addition, Dr. Lazar won the Excellence in Health Care Award - Innovator Category, which was presented by the *South Florida Business Journal*, and was named as a consultant to the medical team for the Fort Lauderdale Strikers, the local professional soccer team. He also wrote an article titled "Patients Should Look Beyond the Knife: Alternatives to Surgery Can Achieve Relief" that was published on *HealthNewsDigest.com* and was featured in *Estate Lifestyles* in its advice column titled "Beyond the Knife: Finding Alternatives to Surgery."



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**10 Jennie Q. Lou, M.D., M.Sc.**, professor of public health/internal medicine and director of the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics program, coauthored an article with **Arif M. Rana, Ph.D., M.Ed.**, assistant professor of medical informatics, entitled "Biomedical Informatics and its Role in Health Care" that appeared in the February issue of *Military Medical/CBRN Technology* magazine.

**11 OMS-IV Yuliya Malayev** coauthored an article entitled "Palliative Chemotherapy for Malignant Ascites Secondary to Ovarian Cancer" that was published in the March issue of the *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*.

**12 Linda Maurice**, director of the college's Lifelong Learning Institute, made a poster presentation on the topic "Media Portrayal of Older Adults: 1960-2010" at the 38<sup>th</sup> Association for Gerontology in Higher Education Annual Meeting and Educational Leadership Conference held February 23-26 in Arlington, Virginia.

**13 OMS-III Jaclynn Moskow** presented a poster entitled "Fasting Blood Glucose as a Predictor of Depression in the Non-Diabetic Geriatric Population" on January 14 at the AMA-MSS Region 4 Convention held at the NSU campus in Davie. She also presented a poster entitled "Interrela-



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tionships Between Physical Status, Mood, Cognition, and Inflammation in the Geriatric Population" on February 24 at the 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Convention held in Weston.

**14 Deborah A. Mulligan, M.D., FAAP, FACEP**, clinical professor of pediatrics and director of the NSU-HPD Institute for Child Health Policy, coauthored an article entitled "The Importance of Play in Promoting Healthy Child Development and Maintaining Strong Parent-Child Bond: Focus on Children in Poverty" that was published in the January 2012 issue of *Pediatrics*—the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

**15 Naushira Pandya, M.D., CMD**, professor and chair of the Department of Geriatrics, presented a lecture on the "Current State of Diabetes Management in Extended Care Facilities" on February 27 at the American Diabetes Association Diabetes and Older Adults Consensus Conference and Writing Group in Washington, D.C. In addition, she was named secretary of the South Florida chapter of the American Medical Women's Association and quoted in the *Sun-Sentinel's* January 14 article entitled "Researchers Urge Doctors to Talk to Seniors About Life Span." She also presented lectures on "Diabetes Management in Long-Term



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Care" on March 1 at the Directors of Nursing Regional Meeting in Dania Beach, Florida, and "Long-Term Care" on February 27 at the Diabetes and Older Adults Consensus Development Conference in Washington, D.C.

**16 OMS-III Elizabeth Phung** was accepted into the Medical Student Training in Aging Research (MSTAR) Program at Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, Maryland. Starting in July 2012, she will spend several months at Johns Hopkins, which is a National Institute on Aging National Training Center, working on a specific geriatric project. The 2012 MSTAR Program provides medical students with an enriching experience in aging-related research and geriatrics, under the mentorship of top experts in the field. The program introduces students to research and academic experiences early in their training that they might not otherwise have during medical school.



# NSU Overview: A Tradition of

## Staghorn Corals Transplanted by Oceanographic Center to Broward County Reef

On February 17, in a delicate operation at sea, healthy staghorn corals were transplanted to a threatened reef off the Broward County coast by researchers at **NSU's Oceanographic Center** and its internal **National Coral Reef Institute (NCRI)**.

Growing under scientists' watchful eyes for the past 18 months in a land-based nursery at the Oceanographic Center, 28 basketball-sized staghorn corals were carefully moved from the nursery and loaded onto a research vessel that transported them along with corals grown at the University of Florida's Tropical Aquaculture Laboratory to a site three miles north of Port Everglades.

This is the first time corals grown in an on-land nursery have been transplanted in Broward County. With coral reefs worldwide facing degradation due to pollution, overfishing, climate change, and development, the transplant of healthy corals back to the reef is an important project for restoring damaged reefs. Coral reefs serve as nurseries where young fish hide from predators and attract thousands of tourists annually.

Florida accounts for 84 percent of all the coral reefs in the United States.



*NSU Oceanographic Center student Pete Grosso places staghorn coral on reef.*

## Occupational Therapy: iPads Offer Hope to Disabled Patients



A little iPad can go a long way. At NSU, the tiny flat-screen touchpad is being used by researchers in the **Occupational Therapy Department** of **NSU's College of Health Care Sciences** to treat disabled patients that suffer from spinal cord injuries and other disabilities.

The Occupational Therapy Department used a \$13,000 grant from the Christopher and Dana Reeve Foundation to purchase 20 iPads to treat patients. The foundation, founded by *Superman* actor Christopher Reeve before his passing, is dedicated to curing spinal cord injury by funding innovative research and improving the quality of life for people living with paralysis through grants, information, and advocacy.

NSU occupational therapy researchers believe that Apple's iPad, with its lightweight portability characteristics, as well as its touchscreen, can help patients have greater access to the Internet, applications, social media outlets, music, games, GPS, and other functions. The iPad allows users to consume various types of media, Web content, photos, and movies without having to be plugged in. Through the use of fingers, the device's screen operates as a touchpad, where the user can simply control the interface by tapping on icons.

So far, eight iPads have been distributed to patients with spinal cord injuries, as well as those suffering from traumatic brain injuries, cerebral palsy, and amputations. Another 12 iPads will be given to similarly disabled individuals in Broward County.





# Innovation and Achievement

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## NSU Launches Solar Energy Project at State Park

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NSU has completed a solar energy project that provides **John U. Lloyd Beach State Park** in Dania, Florida, with 100 percent of its energy needs through a combination of solar electric and solar hot-water systems. Known as the Sustainable Energy Project, the initiative combines using energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies to provide all of the park's energy needs while generating environmental and economic benefits for the park as well.

NSU funded the design, equipment, and installation of the project. The solar electric system has a 25-year-plus life expectancy. The array of solar electric panels provides electricity to power the park's lights, facilities, and computers. In fact, the solar electric system is utility interactive, which means excess energy the park produces is returned to the Florida Power & Light Company grid. That energy is then used to power the park at night and on cloudy days.



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## Long-Term Response Plan for Cuban Oil Spill

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**NSU** and **Florida International University (FIU)** researchers have drafted a plan to best prepare South Florida for an oil spill off the coast of Cuba. The proximity of intended Cuban oil drilling and production puts the U.S. coastal zone at risk from Florida to the Carolinas and northward. Oil from a spill would quickly enter the Gulf Stream and reach Flor-

ida's shores in hours or days, with potentially devastating effects on the densely populated South Florida coastline and its coastal ecosystems.

The sustainability plan calls for a partnership between the U.S. Coast Guard, other federal agencies, and a consortium of South Florida academic institutions, including Nova Southeastern University's Oceanographic Center, Florida International University, other schools, and private industry. Because an oil leak originating in Cuban waters will very quickly enter Florida waters, research, planning, and preparation activities must be undertaken in advance of an accident so authorities can respond effectively.

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## One NSU College Morphs into Two

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NSU created two new colleges in January—the **College of Nursing** and the **College of Health Care Sciences**, which were formally a component of the now-defunct College of Allied Health and Nursing.

The College of Health Care Sciences will continue to serve 2,500 students at NSU's main campus and its Student Educational Centers (SECs) located in Miami, Palm Beach, Fort Myers, Tampa, Orlando, and Jacksonville. The College of Nursing will continue to serve 1,200 students at NSU's main campus in Davie and its SECs in Miami, Palm Beach, Fort Myers, and Orlando while offering programs that not only assist non-nurses to achieve licensure but also provide additional options for all levels of degree programs for current nurses to enhance their educational status.



*In February, a formal event was coordinated to celebrate the launch of the new colleges. Attendees (from left) included: NSU President George L. Hanbury II, Ph.D.; Marcella M. Rutherford, Ph.D., M.B.A., M.S.N., interim dean of the College of Nursing; Richard E. Davis, Ed.D., PA-C, dean of the College of Health Care Sciences; Frank De Piano, Ph.D., NSU provost and executive vice president for academic affairs; and Fred Lippman, R.Ph., Ed.D., Health Professions Division chancellor.*





# Innovative Art Pilot Program Seeks to Enhance Students' Observational Skills

*By Scott Colton, APR  
Director of Medical Communications*

**W**hen an art lover examines a painting, sculpture, or some other intriguing artistic creation, a considerable amount of time is usually spent scrutinizing all facets of the object in great detail. The same can be said about the practice of quality medicine, which also involves a considerable amount of observational skill by the physician.

Consequently, it's not surprising to discover that an increasing number of medical schools are incorporating art and medicine programs into their curriculums. In 2008, Harvard Medical School published a study involving medical students enrolled in an art observation course. Interestingly, the study results indicated about a 38 percent increase in student observation skills. In the ensuing four years, approximately 20 medical schools across the country have developed various courses or workshops incorporating art observation, including NSU's forward-thinking College of Osteopathic Medicine.

NSU-COM's Art Observation Pilot Program has already met with significantly favorable response even though it's still a work in progress. Much of its success can be attributed to Dianna L. Silvagni, J.D., clinical assistant professor of medical education and a major art enthusiast, who spearheads the program. In 2011, after receiving an email from a colleague about the art and medicine curricular concept, Silvagni decided to research the topic further and meet with several of the college's top administrators to discuss the idea, which was met with enthusiasm.

"Because of the interdisciplinary structure of the Health Professions Division (HPD), we decided that implementing an interdisciplinary approach to the program would be beneficial because there was general agreement that student observation skills have declined throughout the various health professions," she explained. "We also felt we had an advantage because NSU owns the Museum of Art Fort Lauderdale, which meant we would have intra-institutional



access to the local museum. Museum faculty and staff members as well as docents have been a tremendous help in getting the pilot off the ground and then participating in the individual programs. Anthony Lauro, deputy director, and Holly Giuliano, senior educator, have been involved from the early planning stages, with Ms. Giuliano working with me along with a docent at each of the pilot programs.”

Following months of strategic planning sessions with representatives from the various HPD discipline areas and beyond, the inaugural test program was initiated at the Museum of Art (MOA) in mid-2011 featuring members of the Art Observation Pilot Program Committee

then observed and discussed what they saw with a museum docent and other MOA staff members. This was followed by a facilitated discussion of the art, what they observed, and how these skills applied to increasing their own observation skills and how that might apply to observing patients. A similar process was implemented for the NSU-COM students who met in small groups of 8 to 10, with the only addition being the inclusion of both a pre- and post-test that was administered at the MOA.”

Another interesting program facet has been the incorporation of a separately developed online elective course, which Silvagni developed for

course using an online format for medical students.”

According to Silvagni, course registration has been larger than expected, and student engagement and satisfaction levels have been quite high. “I have visions of implementing this type of online program for various off-campus situations where students might not have access to a museum,” she explained. “My larger vision for this program is that it be utilized in several venues. I believe it is important for all people to increase their ability to observe others. The ultimate goal is to have interdisciplinary classes with students and faculty members from various disciplines interacting,

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*“MY LARGER VISION **FOR THIS PROGRAM** is that it be utilized in several venues. I believe it is important for all people to increase their ability to observe others. The ultimate goal is to have interdisciplinary classes with students and faculty members from various disciplines interacting, teaching, and learning together how to increase their observation skills.” - DIANNA SILVAGNI*

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and several interested NSU-COM faculty members. In the subsequent months, an additional series of pilot programs involving volunteer first- and second-year osteopathic medical students, as well as representatives from the university’s Lifelong Learning Institute and Center for Psychological Studies, were coordinated. Additionally, in January 2012, the initial group of NSU College of Health Care Sciences faculty members participated in the program, with the next step involving the participation of that college’s students.

“When the NSU-COM faculty members went through the pilot initially, they participated in the observation of selected works of art from a photographic exhibit at the MOA,” Silvagni explained. “The participants

the fourth-year osteopathic medical students. “The course consists of eight hours of art observation, with the first session being a pretest and the final session being a post-test,” she said. “The six sessions in between consist of a series of works of art that are observed by the students, who then answer a series of questions about that particular piece and are asked to provide detailed descriptions. The sessions are divided into specific art principles such as line, color, balance, and symmetry. Finally, there is a discussion section where the work of art, the art principles, and the way the students might use these enhanced observation skills to better observe their patients are examined. In fact, this may be the first such

teaching, and learning together how to increase their observation skills. It will also help promote team building, respect for other professions—and perhaps instill an appreciation of art along the way. Our intention is to implement the curriculum for first- or second-year NSU-COM and College of Health Care Sciences’ students in the fall of 2012.”

Once the various pilot programs conclude, a focus group encompassing representatives and students from each discipline will be scheduled to discern the most effective way to implement an interdisciplinary approach to the art observation curriculum.





## SOJOURN IN SHANGHAI

By OMS-IV Cesar J. Rosa

*“The world is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page.” – Saint Augustine, fourth-century philosopher*

For me, the above quote resonates loudly after spending a month in China to participate in an international medicine rotation. As medical students, it is imperative to develop into consummate lifelong learners. This is why we chose medicine. It is what our patients expect. It is why medicine is not a job; it is a calling.

The quote, which compares traveling to reading, is insightful because the more one travels, the more one learns about the world. This quote is especially important in the medical field since we are supposed to be the epitome of learners, readers, thinkers, and skeptics—always pushing the boundaries of medicine to new heights. That’s why we must open our eyes to the world around us. It is important to have a firsthand glimpse of how medicine is practiced in other parts of the world, to familiarize ourselves with our fellow colleagues from different countries and different walks of life.

Because the world is ever-shrinking metaphorically, we are becoming increasingly interdependent on each other as economies on one side of the world affect the global economy just as medical innovations and advances in one country affect the practice of medicine in another. It is our responsibility to care for the health not only of our nation, but of other nations since communicable diseases are

spreading via airline travel and other modes of international travel. The thin line separating us and them is becoming a blur. Our world is merging whether we are ready or not.

Furthermore, our duty to our patients relies not only on our clinical acumen or immense fund of medical knowledge, but our worldly experiences. The diversity of the patient population demands a physician that is not only sensitive to different cultural beliefs, customs, and traditions, but one that makes the patient feel comfortable and respected. By dedicating time for international medical travel, one may appreciate the differences in health care systems, the practice and art of medicine, endemic diseases of the region, the culture and society, and how these compare to the United States. These experiences are invaluable and will function as the intangibles a physician brings to each patient.

In November 2011, I traveled to Shanghai, China, for a one-month international medical rotation, where I learned an incredible amount about the culture, medicine, and people of China. I consider it an invaluable aspect of my medical school career and an experience that will never be forgotten. I made great friends and took photos that do not even begin to describe my time there.

Shanghai, which is a modern metropolis of immense proportions, is the largest city of the People’s Republic of China and the eighth-largest city in the world—a city comprising super-sized shopping malls, skyscrapers, and hospitals, as well as an enormous population. I stayed on the campus of Fudan University in the Foreign Student Building, located across the street from Zhongshan Hospital. Fudan University, as I came to find out, has numerous campuses, with the medical campus located in the southwest side of Shanghai.

The small room I resided in for the month, which cost

## *“International Medical Clerkships: Capturing a Unique Perspective”*

approximately \$11.50 U.S. dollars a day, was equipped with a tiny bathroom, shower, and twin-sized bed. The campus was lively and quaint, with numerous cafeterias that offered food representing the different provinces of China. Most people do not speak English, which is one of the main drawbacks of being a tourist in China. However, everything in China is automatically one sixth the price due to the exchange rate. The metro line is a convenient three-minute walk from the campus and connects to every part of the city, even as far as the international airport, which is about a 90-minute metro ride. I digress no further into the tourist information besides saying the weekends were spent exploring everything Shanghai had to offer.

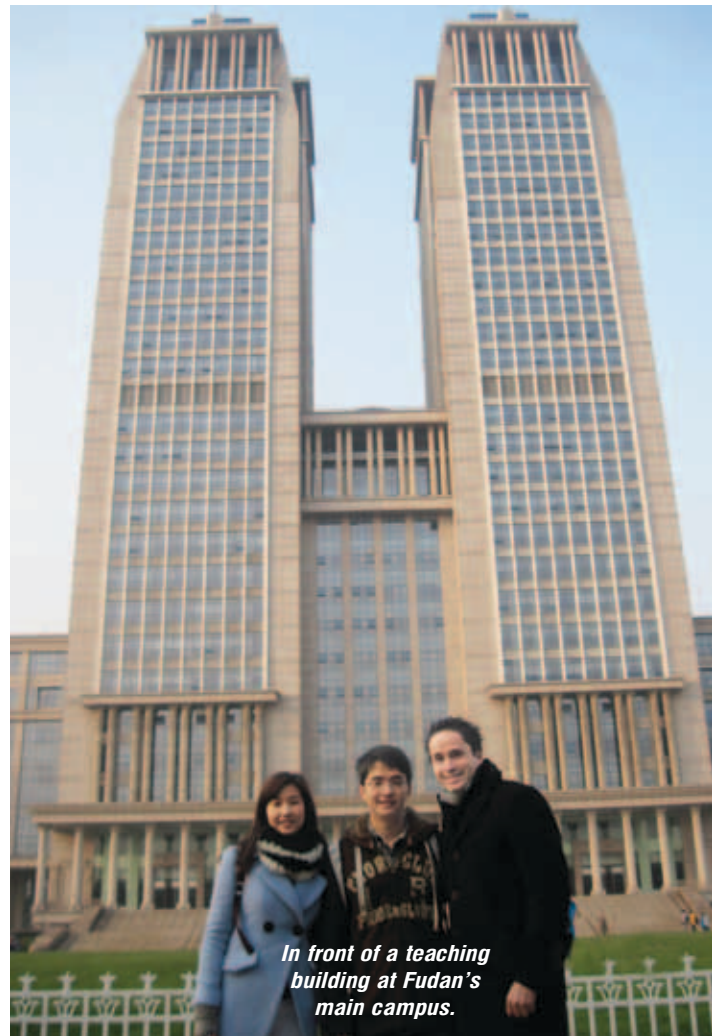
On the first day, I was oriented by Dr. Hao Ming Bai, a very nice gentleman in charge of administration at Zhongshan Hospital. He allowed me to pick any department I wanted to work in for the month. The hospital has 1,400 beds with 40 wards, 5 ICUs, and an attached outpatient clinic. I decided to work in the nephrology department, which has a maximum capacity of 69 patient beds, with 5 patients per room. My preceptor was Dr. Zhiying Lin, a great nephrologist who allowed me to assist with procedures and provided me with nephrology lectures in topics ranging from acute kidney injury and IgA nephropathy to dialysis.

The dialysis unit was equipped with 90 dialysis machines. The nephrologists in China perform their own arteriovenous fistula, grafts, and catheter placements as well as peritoneal dialysis catheter placements. As a result, I was able to sit in and assist in countless cannula placements throughout my time at Zhongshan. Additionally, I spent most days in the wards seeing patients and also assisting with kidney biopsies. Approximately 10 biopsies are performed a week, and Dr. Lin was kind enough to show me slides and teach me the pathology of various intrarenal disease processes. During my rotation in Shanghai, I spent the weekdays working at Zhongshan, where I saw a lot of pathology and experienced how medicine was practiced in China, and the weekends traveling with friends exploring the many sights and attractions.

An international medicine month, whether medical outreach trip or not, should be experienced by all medical students in order to expand their horizons and remind them that the medicine practiced in the United States is not the same as medicine practiced in other parts of the globe. The memories impressed upon me from my trip will never be forgotten. I hope to continue to travel when the opportunity presents itself in order to continue to learn about the peoples of the world – and see how similar we are despite the thousands of miles between our populations.

On my last day at Zhongshan Hospital, Dr. Lin said, “Expand your knowledge not just by reading books, but by experiencing what the world has to offer every opportunity you get.” It is advice I definitely plan on taking.

Students interested in learning more about the Shanghai rotation should contact Cesar Rosa at [cjrosa45@gmail.com](mailto:cjrosa45@gmail.com) or Dr. Jennie Lou at [jlou@nova.edu](mailto:jlou@nova.edu).





# International Medical Outreach Times Four

In December 2011, NSU-COM coordinated a record four medical outreach trips to medically underserved communities in Argentina, Bangladesh, Jamaica, and Peru. During these humanitarian excursions, second-year medical students took time off from their winter vacations to provide various medical services and health care screenings.

*Many of these medically underserved patients had never seen a physician before and suffer from illnesses such as tuberculosis, scabies, malnutrition, hypertension, and diabetes. The students, who were supervised by NSU-COM faculty members and local physicians, showcased their compassion by bringing medical supplies and providing health and wellness lessons to help patients live healthier lives.*

*"We decided to expand the medical outreach programs to reach out to more countries that need medical services," said Robin J. Jacobs, Ph.D., M.S.W., assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine, preventive medicine, biomedical informatics, and public health, who administrates the college's international programs. "The outreach programs serve a dual purpose because they benefit patients living in communities that lack sufficient health care and provide our students with hands-on medical training. The experience also provides students an opportunity to learn about other cultures."*





## BETTERING LIVES IN BANGLADESH

By OMS-II Jeremiah Robison



In December, six NSU-COM students had the opportunity to spend their holiday break on the other side of the world when they traveled over 8,000 miles to participate in a medical outreach trip to Bangladesh, which allowed them to provide medical care to underserved populations across the country.

During the humanitarian excursion, which was sponsored by the college's student chapter of the International Medical Outreach Club (IMOC), we were able to work in a variety of clinical settings, from one of the largest public hospitals in the world and a bustling elementary school to small community clinics in the rural countryside. In addition to treating patients, we were able to observe surgeries,



tour a medical school, and sit in on rounds at the larger hospitals. In all, we were able to tour three different cities in Bangladesh: Dhaka, Chittagong, and Cox's Bazaar, with each offering its own unique clinical environment. "It has been a great experience, having the opportunity to see so many different patients," said OMS-II Jody Ritter. "Getting to work in the clinics in Bangladesh was a life-changing experience for me."

We also enjoyed being exposed to a very unique cultural experience. No matter how hard we worked in the clinic, we always made time to explore the neighborhood, experience the culture, and sometimes even establish a friendship with one of the locals. Although we didn't know a word of Bengali between us, we learned quickly while interacting with patients, guides, merchants, and dignitaries who often couldn't understand us. During our time in Bangladesh, we were able to barter at marketplaces, tour the cities, visit schools, and learn about the rich culture and history of the country.



However, the trip wasn't all about learning. On our last day at the clinic, we were given the opportunity to give case presentations and lectures to the doctors who had been teaching us during our stay. After showcasing what we had learned over the past week to the physicians, we then went on to talk about what we knew best and gave the M.D. physicians a crash course in osteopathic philosophy, diagnosis, and treatment. The day ended with everyone involved knowing they had both taught and learned from the experience.





# Medical Outreach in Peru Helps Effect Positive Change

**T**he first sight that met our eyes as we stepped off the plane in Piura, Peru, was the crew of beaming ladies all dressed in yellow, bearing roses and waving a large banner that read “Welcome NOVA Medical Team!”

Las Damas Salesianas (Salesian Women’s Association), our Peruvian hosting organization, had come to welcome us to our new home away from home—the Bosconia Medical Center—where we would be living and working for the week. The Damas of Piura are a branch of an international charitable society that raises money to build and maintain clinics such as the one we visited, as well as orphanages and other projects that deliver aid to impoverished South American communities.

The December 2011 expedition to Piura was the second official medical service trip NSU-COM’s International Medical Outreach Club has conducted in Peru, and the beginning of a new tradition and partnership with the community, which received our services with warmth and appreciation. Our team consisted of 6 family physicians, an emergency room doc, dermatologist, anesthesiologist, physician’s assistant,

and 17 second-year medical students. We spent five days treating patients at the small clinic, which despite being severely understaffed, fills a great need in the community by providing much-needed health care services to the surrounding settlements of underserved Peruvian families and displaced immigrants from the Andes. Through the help of visiting volunteer physicians such as the preceptors of our team, the clinic is able to offer patients basic treatments for common conditions such as hypertension and parasitic infections, which are endemic to the area.

During our week at Bosconia Medical Center, we treated over 500 patients—nearly triple the volume the clinic

is normally able to serve. Students took turns rotating between the various specialists, with whom they had the chance to practice taking histories, physical exam skills, and even assist in minor surgical procedures.

One of the most rewarding aspects of our clinical work in Peru was the opportunity to utilize osteopathic manipulative medicine as a highly effective yet low-cost option for chronic pain. Many people in the Piura community work in agriculture or other jobs that involve intense physical labor and presented with longstanding somatic dysfunctions and muscular pain. Rather than the typical “Band-Aid” treatment of short-acting pain killers, we were able to give these patients hands-on therapy to correct their

dysfunctions. We then educated them on exercises they could do at home on a regular basis to relieve the pain associated with their occupational stress. Patients expressed surprise at the improvement they felt from techniques as simple as soft tissue and myofascial release, and most of them, who had never experienced the luxury of a massage, genuinely appreciated the personal attention and hands-on care.



It was a true eye-opener to the practical applications of OMT, especially in a resource-poor setting.

Additionally, while in Piura, many of the students participated in data collection for the Musculoskeletal Research Study being conducted by Robin Jacobs, Ph.D., M.S.W., assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral medicine, preventive medicine, biomedical informatics, and public health, who coordinates the NSU-COM medical outreach programs. Dr. Jacobs is investigating the most prevalent somatic dysfunctions that affect underserved populations in South America, with the intent of publicizing the need and effectiveness of OMT in these

## HIV/AIDS: Perspective from Peru

By OMS-II Belinda Collias



settings, which we were able to witness firsthand during this outreach trip.

We ended our journey with an excursion to the ancient ruins of Machu Picchu — the ultimate culmination to a week that had taught us many lessons and filled us with awe and respect for Peru and its people. One of the greatest benefits of international medical outreach is the perspective that is gained when one returns because each of us now has a new lens with which to view the medical field, and an appreciation for the wide range of needs and deficits that exist within the health care infrastructures of Peru and countless other developing nations. In the long run, some of us may return one day to provide direct care to patients in underserved regions, while others have gained the compassion and skills that will make them better future physicians. But all of us, students and preceptors alike, were influenced to effect positive change in our field on many different levels.



*This past December, I had an eye-opening experience as a participant in the college's medical outreach trip to Peru. As medical students in the United States, we have been taught about HIV/AIDS, with much emphasis on the specialized care and sensitivity these patients require. While many of us were aware that disparities exist across the globe in regard to the HIV pandemic, the attitude we encountered in Peru toward the disease was shocking.*

*When we arrived to volunteer at the local clinic, which serves an impoverished region in the northwest region of the country, we met friendly health care workers who were eager to get to know us and asked what kind of doctors we wanted to be. However, when I mentioned my goal was to specialize in HIV care, their demeanor instantly changed. That disease was not at all common in their country, they insisted. It was something that was greatly feared and rarely discussed.*

*Later that day, one of the nurses pulled me aside privately and told me she knew of an orphanage not far from our work site, where children with AIDS had been quarantined by the government and in essence, sent to die. If I wanted to visit, she said, she would take me, but it would have to be kept a secret because she could potentially lose her job for associating with the orphanage. Her description sent chills down my spine, but I went to the orphanage the following morning with one of our physician preceptors and another classmate.*

*We were pleasantly surprised to discover the conditions were not nearly as dismal as we had been told. On the contrary, we were warmly greeted by Carmen Minga, a nurse who lives full time with 11 HIV-positive orphans and has devoted her entire life to maintaining a safe, loving home called Asociación Por La Vida to keep them alive and healthy. In addition, Carmen and her small group of helpers provide outreach and aid to over 50 families affected by HIV in the surrounding communities with the meager resources they obtain through donations.*

*For those living in the United States, a diagnosis of HIV, which at one time was a death sentence, has evolved into a chronic, yet manageable condition that allows one to live a reasonably normal lifestyle for decades. People living with HIV in the United States have better access to the anti-retroviral medications that help keep them alive regardless of ability to pay. Resources are available to help them obtain housing, transportation to health centers, and needed ancillary care. It seems rational and humane to provide these much-needed health services to HIV and AIDS patients, whose lives are often devastated by the loss of employment, housing, health, and sometimes friends and family.*

*The attitude we first encountered at the clinic was an accurate representation of how most Peruvians, including the*





to cause resistance of the virus to the medications, and the alternate second-line regimens we have in the United States are not available in Peru if this were to occur.

We spent the entire day at the orphanage playing with the kids and giving each of them a thorough physical exam. As we said our goodbyes at the door, five-year-old Meily grabbed my hand and asked if I could come back to play with her tomorrow. As her hopeful eyes gazed up at me, I turned and looked into Carmen's, which were silently asking a different question—"Is there anything you can do to help them?"

Asociación Por La Vida is a small, grass-roots organization that

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*"LATER THAT DAY, **ONE OF THE NURSES** pulled me aside privately and told me she knew of an orphanage not far from our worksite, where children with AIDS had been quarantined by the government and in essence, sent to die. If I wanted to visit, she said, she would take me, but it would have to be kept a secret because she could potentially lose her job for associating with the orphanage. Her description sent chills down my spine..." - BELINDA COLLIAS*

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government, feel about HIV/AIDS. The stigma and discrimination bred from fear, Carmen told us, were what constantly hindered her from serving the local HIV community and the 11 children in her care to the best of her ability. Although the government does provide basic anti-retroviral treatment, other forms of assistance are extremely limited and especially difficult for the poor to access. With tears in her eyes, Carmen told us of an incident in which doctors from the community hospital turned her away in the middle of the night when she went to seek emergent care for one of the kids, because people with HIV are not allowed to be near the other patients. "We have to do

it all on our own," she said with despair. "This house becomes their hospital when they get sick, so I do whatever I can to keep basic supplies and medicine on the shelf with the little I receive in donations. Sometimes this comes at the expense of the children's daily meals."

The government is equally apathetic when it comes to distributing the anti-retroviral medications. If Carmen does not appear to collect the drugs each month on the exact day and time that was assigned, (which is often subject to change without notice), she will be reprimanded for carelessness and denied the monthly supply until next time. These periodic deficits in treatment, as we know well, are likely

operates purely on donations and tries against all odds to provide what we consider to be the standard of care to young HIV-patients in a society that has severely marginalized them. The NSU-COM medical outreach team that volunteered in Peru greatly supports the association's mission and will be establishing a sponsorship program through which you can "adopt" an orphan living with HIV and help support the child through a one-time or continuous contribution. Please contact Belinda Collias at [blaidley@gmail.com](mailto:blaidley@gmail.com) or call (802) 343-6169 for more information.



# Students Relish Argentina Experience

This past December, over 20 students and faculty members affiliated with NSU-COM's International Medical Outreach Club (IMOC) traveled to Santo Tome, Argentina, to work with local health care providers to improve access to care in the area and gain valuable clinical experience. The group spent over two weeks in Argentina, landing in Buenos Aires on December 3 and immediately taking a 16-hour bus ride to a rural location deep in the Corrientes Province.

Santo Tome is in the northern part of the country and on the opposite side of the Rio de Uruguay from Brazil. Once we arrived there, we met with faculty members and students from Fundacion H.A. Barcelo Facultad de Medicina, a local medical school in the city and the only medical school in Corrientes.

We worked daily in small rural outpost clinics that were set up on the periphery of Santo Tome. These were small two- or three-room facilities that provided standard primary care and wellness visits. This health care format was set up to support and not overwhelm the lone hospital in Santo Tome, which is the only hospital for 150 kilometers. Many of us also rounded and worked with Argentine physicians at the hospital, assisting with regular checkup visits, OB/GYN examinations, and pediatric visits as well as providing support in the emergency room and intensive care unit.

In addition to clinic and hospital work, many of us participated in house calls to the elderly and severely ill in the community. This was a very unique experience given that house calls have virtually disappeared in the United States. This type of care really left an impression on us for several reasons. Walking several miles down a dirt road to visit and provide medical care to patients living in a two- or three-room brick building was an event many of us were unable to compare to anything else. It was another avenue of care completely different from the physician shadowing experiences we had in our hometowns or through the IGC mentor program here at NSU-COM.

The community was warm and vibrant and very much appreciative of the students and faculty members who

gave of their time and talents. I was amazed by the friendliness and gratitude the community showed as a whole. Their appreciation was shown at every meeting, making it a very rewarding experience—an experience that reminds you that medicine is not just another career, but a career based on compassion and devoted to the care of others.

We also became very familiar with the local Argentine culture, and it was interesting to see how that culture played a role in medicine. Many of us had never experienced “siesta” prior to this trip. This normal two- or three-hour downtime during the middle of the day allowed for personal interaction between the NSU-COM students and the local medical students. Many friendships were developed, and both sides were eager to learn about the other and how medical education is conducted in each country.



During afternoon breaks and also in the evenings, many of the faculty members gave presentations regarding topics relevant to the trip. We learned about the different infectious diseases in the area, including an outbreak of leishmaniasis over the past few years. In addition, many presentations and discussions revolved around public health and what steps could be taken to improve the Santo Tome area. These centered on many topics, including better women's health care screening and concerns about the safety of the local landfill.

At the trip's conclusion, the majority of us continued on to Iguazu Falls for a few days of rest and relaxation. After seeing Iguazu in person, there is no doubt as to why it was recently named one of the new 7 Wonders of Nature in 2011. This was a much-needed side trip after spending two weeks seeing patients in the clinics and helping the local community with public health needs. It was a truly unbelievable experience.

The IMOC Executive Board and all the participating students would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Heather McCarthy, Dr. Francisco Laboy, Dr. Amos Trif, Drs. Brian and Jenine Porvin, Dr. Theodore Geffin, and Dr. Adelle Burnsed-Geffin, as well as the entire staff at Fundacion H.A. Barcelo Facultad de Medicina, for making this new international medical outreach experience possible.





## A Fulfilling Journey to Jamaica

A few days after the end of the fall semester, a group of 10 medical students, still recovering from a grueling round of finals, set off for the island country of Jamaica with the goal to help those in need. We were freshly armed with a semester's worth of clinical didactics, four amazing physicians to guide us through what lay ahead, and the desire to do good deeds. I must honestly say that before this medical outreach trip, my understanding of Jamaica was limited to the Rastafarian traditions, the music of Bob Marley, and the impressions of the unlikely Jamaican bobsledding team—that could in the film *Cool Runnings*. These preconceived notions could not do justice to the rich and warm Jamaican culture we were about to experience.

The medical outreach trip to Jamaica, now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year, is courageously led by Dr. Paula Anderson-Worts and allows for multiple programs in the NSU Health Professions Division to come together and collaborate for a single purpose. Dr. Anderson-Worts has worked diligently over the years to develop a rapport with communities and volunteers throughout the country in order to enable NSU students to gain hands-on clinical experience while providing medical, pharmacy, occupational therapy, dental, and ophthalmology care for underserved Jamaican populations.

Upon arriving in Jamaica, we were whisked away on a two-hour ride into the countryside to find the hotel we would stay at. The mountain pass at night was an adventure in its own right as we zipped along crowded narrow roads in a van that had a tendency to provide a view over the edge of a cliff more times than I care to remember. This abrupt introduction to Jamaica was unfortunate in that the veil of night shielded the beauty that was all around us. It wasn't until we entered the rural farming communities that we were able to behold not only the beauty of the country, but also a simpler and relaxed way of life that centered on family unity.

We organized our makeshift clinics in churches and schools and practiced the art of making due with the resources we had. I set up an examination room in the

reverend's bedroom one day and on a pew residing on a 200-year-old church altar the next. At first, it was awkward to interview patients under these circumstances, but the patients didn't mind much as they all seemed to know everyone in the community.

On our first day seeing patients, my group arrived at the church at 8:00 a.m. and was immediately greeted by a mass of patients calmly waiting to be seen. Many of these patients would wait all day for their turn, yet they never complained. This sight was intimidating because how could four medical students and two physicians see all these people, not to mention the talented two-manned optometry team at our particular site? The task was daunting, but Dr. Cheryl Atherley-Todd and Dr. Michelle Duhaney quickly gave us a pep talk, told us good luck, and kicked us into the proverbial deep end of the pool.



One by one, we listened to the patients' complaints, quickly drawing a list of possible diagnoses and presenting our plans to the attending physicians with the hopes that our logic in deciphering the patients' condition was correct. It usually wasn't. This trial by fire helped us quickly grow out of the classroom and retrain how we looked at our knowledge from a different

perspective. Our attending physicians constantly asked, "How do you want to treat them?" This question was serious, and it intimidated us. However, for most, it was the first time we experienced being treated as a true "colleague," and we quickly rose to the challenge. By the end of the day, we had seen over 120 patients at our particular site in just eight hours. The day was exhausting, but the gratitude expressed by the patients, especially those that waited all day, made the experience worth it.

There were many times I was confused as to what was driving my patient's condition, and then I remembered to rely on the osteopathic skill of diagnosing with your hands. I noticed that several medical students were also in the same predicament and were surprised by their ability to help their patients to relieve their pain by simply treating them with OMM. We held a clinic at the hotel that



hosted us, and I was approached by a masseuse that had wrist pain for years. After examining her wrists, I noticed her carpal bones were out of place, so I quickly realigned them using OMM. With the relief of pain she received, she quickly told her fellow masseuses, and soon thereafter I had a line of ladies ready to see me.

These daily patient encounters were rewarding as well as challenging and helped shape our growing perspective on how to practice medicine. Our attending physicians were guiding us every step of the way. Dr. Anderson-Worts and Dr. Doris Newman, in particular, taught me to write a proper and efficient SOAP note and how to confidently present a patient. While the workdays were often long, it did not matter to our attending physicians how tired they personally were as they continually sought to teach us until the last patient was seen. I thank them for their commitment.

One of the many saving graces on this medical outreach encounter was the pre-trip planning of the fourth-year pharmacy students. They compiled pamphlets for us about the common diseases and conditions we would see in Jamaica and what drugs they would have available to treat each one. These pamphlets were invaluable to us, and their mentors constantly amazed us with their ability to teach us the purposes of each drug and why they were relevant, while also showing us how to write prescriptions.

One day, after realizing how much time the pharmacy program had invested in teaching me about drugs, I decided to return the favor by grabbing a few pharmacy students and showing them a venous stasis ulcer and how to clean it. While this gruesome task may have not been for the faint of heart, it was rewarding to help fellow students learn as much as they could about health care even if it wasn't their own field.

This trip for me was not only a medical outreach trip,

but also a journey to learn about a new culture that is not my own. The Jamaican people are proud of their traditions and heritage, and it is evident in every aspect of their lives. I quickly learned to adjust to the Jamaican patois dialect and expand my limited knowledge of Jamaican phrases beyond that of "Yah, man!" We soon learned that cultural and socioeconomic situations affected the communities and contributed to the medical conditions in our patients. Something as simple as the price of body soap had a drastic impact on women's health. This issue is often taken for granted in the United States, but in Jamaica, many of our patients were forced to use "blue soap" — a harsh soap that is used for laundry — to clean their bodies. The abrasive action of the soap would kill the body's naturally occurring bacteria, which helps prevent infections like bacterial vaginitis.

One thing I will miss about Jamaica is the ever-tasty food and generosity of the communities we visited. The people went out of their way to show us their gratitude by preparing food for our teams. One patient brought us honey harvested from his bee colonies, while another even climbed a tree to bring us fresh coconuts that were filled with some of the sweetest liquid I have ever tasted. One day, fellow second-year students Taylor Hathaway and Crystal Martin were presented with a bundle of sugarcane brought by a patient, which allowed them hours of chewing entertainment.

Our medical outreach trip to Jamaica was a whirlwind experience for all of us that attended. The work was tough, but you could see our confidence and knowledge build as the days progressed. We helped each other and worked as a team to see over 1,200 patients in just five days of having clinics. As a student, there are many stressful times when it is easy to lose sight of the purpose of our medical education. At the beginning of this trip, we set out to help those that were in need; in the end, it was the people of Jamaica who helped us understand why we want to be in medicine.





## MELNICK MEMORIES

### *Looking Back...at Early Administrators*

By Arnold Melnick, D.O., M.Sc., FACOP

Founding Dean of Southeastern College of Osteopathic Medicine (NSU-COM)

**They say that “what goes around comes around.” It’s so true of several of the early people hired to assist in the dean’s office in the 1980s.**

**In a previous issue of *COM Outlook* several years ago, I wrote about Matthew A. Terry, D.O., and Joseph Namey, D.O., who were great administrators. We had observed them in other capacities and felt we knew them thoroughly. They proved to be exactly what we thought they would be—splendid administrators and wonderful additions to our new school. Both these fine osteopathic physicians ultimately succeeded to the deanship and made excellent contributions in that position.**

But they were not the only such administrators we “took a chance” on.

There was another excellent early administrator: **Neil A. Natkow, D.O.** My first contact with him was when he was nearing graduation from college. His parents and I attended Temple University together and remained friends through the years, though separated much of the time by geography. One day, they called to tell me that Neil was ready to apply to medical school. I suggested the Kansas City College of Osteopathic Medicine. I wrote a letter of recommendation, and he was accepted. Over the years, I’ve recommended many students to medical school, but Neil is the only one who kept in touch with me every step of the way—promotion, graduation, internship, residency, and subsequent professional positions and activities—an unusual happening.

After completing his training, Neil eventually got into administration, serving as director of medical education at a community osteopathic hospital before becoming chairman of family medicine at the Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine. When there was an opening at Southeastern Medical Center in North Miami Beach, I suggested he apply and again wrote a letter of recommendation. He was hired as medical director and director of medical education and later became chief executive officer of the hospital. That brought him to North Miami Beach—and to a clinical affiliation with SECOM (the precursor to NSU-COM). After a while, SECOM needed a capable educational administrator, and Neil was appointed special assistant to Ralph Tomei, D.O., associate dean, and subsequently to Dr. Namey. He ultimately rose to the position of associate dean for professional affairs. He served multiple roles in the clinical and professional affairs of the school and performed exceptionally well.

A fourth administrator came to us somewhat the same way. **Johnathan Rose, Ph.D., M.S.H.A.**, held executive positions in health administration in our community, including one with AMI Hospital Corporation. When we organized the SECOM Foundation, he and his wife, Terri, an early graduate of our College of Optometry, became very active with enthusiastic work for SECOM. They worked even harder when we became Southeast-

ern University of the Health Sciences. After just a few years, Johnathan was elected president of the foundation and used his skills in organization and health administration to advance the foundation in its work to support our colleges.

When the college, which by now had merged with Nova, needed another executive administrator, we turned to someone we knew was capable and reliable: Johnathan. He agreed to take on the duties of director of operations and ultimately became vice chancellor for operations for the Health Professions Division, where his task was to coordinate and supervise most of the non-educational functions of the administration. Possibly his greatest single achievement—certainly the most costly—was to coordinate for us the supervision of the construction of the Health Professions Division’s four buildings on our new NSU campus.

This was an 18-month operation, which cost around \$40 million and created 900,000 square feet of space on 21 acres—a mammoth accomplishment. In this work, Johnathan needed to coordinate architects, builders, HPD administration, and NSU administration with no added salary. As that project ended, he took on other operational duties in the division. For instance, when we were organizing the College of Dental Medicine, he was appointed to the pivotal post of chairman of the Dental Task Force Finance Committee.

These four individuals are examples of the value of a longtime relationship with someone whom you know is capable and prepared for the spot you are trying to fill. That is one of the reasons I am strongly in favor of this type of hiring rather than extensive “searches” for strangers, whose hiring often depends on examining CVs or reading references letters. These four colleagues were outstanding examples of this philosophy. And they contributed so much to the structural, administrative, and educational advancement of our institution.

A few may think it smacks of nepotism, hiring someone you know well (even though there was no kinship), but I had enough experience with these four to know for a certainty they would do an excellent job.

All four of them did just that.

## Clinical Campus Spotlight...Saluting the Sites that Train Our Students

# BETHESDA MEMORIAL HOSPITAL



**B**ethesda Memorial Hospital, which is Palm Beach County's most comprehensive medical facility, houses a 28-bed inpatient rehabilitation facility and offers a full array of health care services. These include 24-hour emergency services and centers of excellence for cardiovascular care, maternity, neonatal, and pediatric services as well as cancer and orthopedic care.

The facility, which is one of three not-for-profit hospitals in Palm Beach County, has grown from a 70-bed hospital in 1959 to the 401-bed community hospital that exists today and encompasses 550 physicians and a staff of 2,300 employees. With a mission to provide quality health services in a compassionate manner, Bethesda cared for 60,000 patients in its emergency department in 2011 and delivered more than 3,000 babies as one of the busiest maternity hospitals in Palm Beach County.

Its latest addition—Bethesda West Hospital—will open in January 2013 to serve West Boynton Beach. The new facility will feature 80 all-private inpatient rooms, surgical suites, imaging and infusion services, laboratory and inpatient pharmacy services, respiratory therapy, and physical rehabilitation as well as a private chapel and healing garden, conference facilities, and a full array of family support areas. Designed to accommodate the growing community, Bethesda West Hospital has the capacity to become a 400-bed hospital if needed.

Bethesda Memorial Hospital enjoys strong partnerships with many area schools and universities, including Nova Southeastern University, the University of Miami, Palm Beach State College, Barry University, and Florida

Atlantic University, to cultivate tomorrow's leaders in medicine. Each year, 24 NSU-COM students (12 in their OMS-III year and 12 in their OMS-IV year) perform their clinical rotations at the hospital.

During their training, medical students and residents at Bethesda can participate in weekly grand rounds lectures to discuss treatment protocols about specific cases as well as participate in special guest lectures provided by the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute. In addition to providing onsite training, Bethesda's physicians serve as adjunct faculty members and guest lecturers at universities around the country.

Bethesda Memorial Hospital, which is a proud affiliate of the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute in Tampa, Florida, also has a symbiotic partnership with the Society of Thoracic Surgeons—an organization comprising 6,000 surgeons worldwide committed to the highest quality standards in cardiothoracic care.

Because of the standards of excellence it has achieved, the hospital earned numerous accolades in 2011, including being named Best Maternity Hospital in South Florida by *South Florida Parenting Magazine*, receiving the Palm Beach County Leadership Business Network's Business Leader of the Year Award, and being designated as the Best Hospital in Boynton Beach by the *Sun-Sentinel*.


Bethesda Memorial Hospital also received the Get with the Guidelines – Gold Award for Stroke Care in 2011 from the American Heart Association and has been a recipient of the Florida Medical Quality Assurance Inc. Patient Safety Award in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2011.



# Success...American Style

## Emigrating from Cuba to the United States Transforms Alina Perez's Life

By Scott Colton, APR  
Director of Medical Communications



**A**s a child growing up in Cuba under the stifling communist rule of the notorious dictator Fidel Castro in the 1960s, Alina Perez, J.D., M.P.H., LCSW, led a life most of us who were born and raised in the United States could never begin to fathom.

At the age of three, Perez's existence was irreversibly altered when her father, Jorge—a university-level physics and math professor—was forcibly taken from the family home and sentenced to a 20-year prison term simply because his political views did not align with those of the Castro regime. “Anyone who was thought to be conspiring against Castro was caught and thrown in prison with no due process,” said Perez, associate professor of public health. “The Cuban government could find no proof of my father doing anything wrong, yet he still received a 20-year sentence.”

The first year of her father's imprisonment was an especially difficult one for Perez and her family, which included mom Pilar and sister Ileana, who passed away 15 years ago from lung cancer. “The first year was very tough because we didn't even know where he was,” she explained. “In fact, we had no idea if he was alive or had been executed. When we

finally found out where he was, my mom always made sure we went to see him and supported him.”

Dealing with the incarceration of her father was indeed a crushing blow, as was the loss of his income, which placed a significant burden on Perez's mother. The family also had to contend with the severe ramifications and often blatant hostility that swiftly manifested once Jorge had been branded a political outcast. “My mom, who was also a teacher, suddenly had problems of her own with the Cuban government simply because she was the wife of a political prisoner,” Perez said. “Consequently, concerns about her fitness to teach impressionable minds resulted in her being asked to resign as a teacher, and she was given a clerical position within the school system.”

### Stifling Suppression and Control

Because communist rule was the only political system she had ever known, Perez quickly grew accustomed to an austere lifestyle that encompassed everything from severe food rationing to working 17 hours a day in the country's myriad tobacco fields. “I would be lying if I said it was a



bad childhood because I had so much love around me,” she explained. “My father’s sister, who was also a teacher, lived with us. As a result, I was always reading books, so perhaps reading was my escape from not fitting in with the rest of the kids. I was always a very inquisitive child, but also kind of rebellious because I didn’t fit in and was frequently harassed because my father was a political prisoner.

“When I was in first grade, my school principal told me to write a letter to Castro asking for my dad’s forgiveness, and I said no,” she added. “Even at such a young age, I knew he was just trying to corrupt my mind. And this trend continued as I grew older because there was always some occasion to remind me I was different for being the daughter of a political prisoner, that I was somebody against the system I was living in. But my attitude was to never give in. The school officials would ask me questions like, ‘Do you go to church?’ When I told them I did, they would say, ‘You’re not supposed to go to church.’ In class, we would often be asked things like ‘Who lives by the revolutionary principles?’ Everyone would stand up in support, but my friend and I would not, so we were constantly being sent to the principal’s office even in high school.”

During her high school education, which was actually a three-year program called pre-university encompassing 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> grade, Perez endured a required rite of passage that would be condemned as an appalling mix of slavery and child abuse were it to occur in the United States. For two months during each pre-university year of education, Perez and her fellow students were forced to work in the tobacco fields if they had any hope of progressing to the university level.

Just imagine the public outcry that would ensue in this country if a similar program was ever established. Yet this is the stultifying, prison-like ordeal Perez had to contend with as she was taken from her home to ardu-

ously toil in the various tobacco fields located throughout Cuba in January and February. “I did it for three years and disliked it tremendously,” she admitted. “From 5:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. each day, I would be out in the fields picking leaves, fertilizing, and learning how to sew the tobacco.”

The back-breaking work was torturous in many ways, but the misery didn’t end when Perez returned to her squalid barracks—which featured neither heat nor air conditioning—each night. “We slept in bunk beds, but not like the ones you see with mattresses here in the United States,” she explained. “What you actually slept on was a thin piece of fabric that was nailed to the sides, and no pillows were provided, so you had to make sure you brought one from home.”

According to Perez, even basic needs such as showering and eating meals were primitively handled. “The showers were located outside, and you had to use them in the middle of the night when it was cold and deal with all the animals roaming around,” she recalled. “In one of the camps, the building housing the showers had no roof. There were little wood cubicles, and you showered

with cold water as frogs hopped around. Equally as bad was the food, which was horrendous. There wasn’t much food in Cuba, so we were fed whatever they could find. They would usually serve us pasta or rice, which was unintentionally seasoned with little black bugs. Then you had to deal with the cockroaches and mice that were trying to eat the same food we were attempting to eat.”

### Goodbye Cuba...Hello United States

After completing her pre-university education, Perez enrolled in Universidad de la Habana (University of Havana) in 1976 to study library science, although psychology would have been her desired choice. “I wanted to be a psychologist when I attended pre-university, but realized I would not be able to study it because of my father,” she explained. “The Cuban government was not about to train someone like me who would be dealing with people’s minds. So I decided to pursue library science since I like to read and have a true thirst for knowledge.”

In 1979, during her third year at the University of Havana, U.S. President Jimmy Carter coordinated a large-scale human rights effort to free political pris-





*Perez  
(center)  
with  
her nieces  
Ana Gema  
and Beatriz.*



oners in Cuba that had been incarcerated simply for possessing an ideology that ran counter to the Cuban government. What resulted was a deal between the U.S. and Cuban governments that freed the political prisoners and allowed them to relocate to the United States to start new lives, if they so desired. Consequently, after serving 18 years of his 20-year prison sentence, her father was finally released.

"If this agreement hadn't occurred between President Carter and Castro, I would still be in Cuba today," she admitted. "When my father was released in September of 1979, he was almost 60 and had no desire to live in Cuba anymore. I was still a year away from completing my education, but I had grown quite tired of the constant persecution I dealt with as the daughter of a political prisoner. Everywhere I went, it was always the same; I was tired of being repressed."

Unlike the infamous Mariel Boat Lift that began in April 1980 and involved an exodus of about 125,000 Cubans making the perilous journey to Florida in rickety vessels over a six-month period, Perez and her family enjoyed a much safer passage to the United States when they arrived in December 1979. "We came by plane to Miami Interna-

tional Airport and were immediately processed," said Perez of the life-altering experience. "My mom had cousins that had lived in Miami since the 1960s, and they opened their arms to us."

Being a Cuban immigrant who spoke no English was an understandably daunting challenge for Perez, who had to acculturate quickly to living life in a new country. Not surprisingly, the admittedly strong-willed Perez forged boldly ahead by enrolling in a

six-month program that taught English for new immigrants. By the end of the six-month course, Perez quickly landed a job at Capital Bank as a check signature verifier.

### **Charting a Course to Career Fulfillment**

Because the credits she earned while attending the University of Havana were not transferable to the United States, Perez essentially had to start from scratch when it came to pursuing an academic degree, which is exactly what she did. In fact, now that she was free from the communistic constraints of Cuba, Perez was a woman reborn.

Consequently, she readily embraced a demanding and concurrent mix of educational enhancement and fulfilling full-time work that would come to characterize her life over the next three decades. For Perez, the journey from being a newly minted immigrant to an acclaimed and multifaceted professional was about to become a frequently arduous—but continuously joyful—process.

After taking classes at Miami-Dade Community College for a year, she enrolled at Florida Memorial College in Miami, earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Clinical Psychology—and graduating summa cum laude with a 4.0

*Enjoying a vacation  
in the Cayman  
Islands with her  
husband, Mario.*



GPA in 1985. Not content to remain educationally idle, Perez pressed on, earning a master's degree in clinical social work from Barry University in Miami in 1988. During this time, she volunteered at Jackson Memorial Hospital's Crisis Unit in Miami before accepting a position at Cedars Medical Center in Miami as a mental health assistant, where she worked the 3:00-11:00 p.m. shift in both the psychiatric and geriatric wards.

Over the next 12 years, Perez established herself as a successful and well-respected clinical social worker who assisted with discharge planning and psychological counseling of patients in both the inpatient cancer and intensive care units at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach. In this role, she also performed psychological evaluations, initiated involuntary examination procedures, evaluated and assisted victims

developed an interest in the legal aspect as it related to medicine."

Showcasing her indomitable spirit once again, Perez applied and was accepted into the University of Miami School of Law, earning her J.D. degree in December 1996 while maintaining her rigorous full-time work schedule at Mount Sinai Medical Center. During her days as a law student, she also took advantage of a priceless opportunity to travel to England in the summer of 1996 to participate in an affiliated program at University College London.

"It's a combined two-month program where the students from the University of Miami can complete some of their core courses in London," said Perez, who savored every minute of her overseas stay. "I was able to expose myself to both European and international law, which I love. It ended up be-

where she served as an associate attorney at two firms, Perez happily returned to the health care realm, accepting a social worker position at Vitas Healthcare Corporation in Miramar, Florida. "Almost immediately, I realized I didn't enjoy practicing as a litigation attorney; it just didn't mesh with my personality," she admitted. "I also missed working with my patients and being involved in the health care profession."

Her position at Vitas proved to be rewarding on many levels, especially on the personal front, for it was there where Perez was unexpectedly introduced to the love of her life, a science teacher named Mario who would go on to become her husband in 2007. "There was a chaplain I worked with who was totally obnoxious," she recalled. "We were always disagreeing with each other about patient care and other related

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*"THERE WERE LITTLE WOOD CUBICLES, and you showered with cold water as frogs hopped around. Equally as bad was the food, which was horrendous. There wasn't much food in Cuba, so we were fed whatever they could find. They would usually serve us pasta or rice, which was unintentionally seasoned with little black bugs. Then you had to deal with the cockroaches and mice that were trying to eat the same food we were attempting to eat." - ALINA PEREZ*

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of domestic violence as well as elder and child abuse, and provided crisis intervention and community referrals to patients and families.

Although she had earned a master's degree and was relishing her rewarding career, Perez's ultimate goal was to earn a Ph.D. in social work. However, as she delved deeper into the relevant issues that defined her job at Mount Sinai, she ultimately chose to forego the pursuit of a Ph.D. in favor of a law degree. "Working in the cancer and intensive care units was quite an enlightening experience from a legal standpoint, and I found myself pondering a number of questions I couldn't answer," she explained. "I wondered why people who were suffering from fatal diseases weren't allowed to die even if they wanted to, so I

ing the best semester of my life because it was the only time I was able to just be a student for two months, live in a dorm – and not work."

Once she earned her J.D. degree, Perez remained at Mount Sinai until 1999, working as a field instructor supervising master's-level social work student interns during their field placement. She also served as a compassionate case manager, which involved responsibilities such as reviewing medical records to determine compliance with Medicare and Medicaid regulations, monitoring the appropriateness of resource utilization and quality of medical care provided to patients, and counseling patients and families on advance directives and end-of-life issues.

In April 2000, following a brief detour into the world of private practice law

issues, but one day he surprised me by saying, 'You and my brother deserve each other. Do you want to meet him?' My response back was, 'Well, if he's anything like you, absolutely not.'"

Fortunately, the romance that almost wasn't had a fairytale ending, culminating with the couple's marriage just days before Perez celebrated her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday.

### **NSU...Here I Come!**

Social work may have been her career of choice, but Perez also had a deep-rooted desire to teach. "I always had a passion for teaching, which really blossomed when I was working at Mount Sinai as a field instructor for master's-level social work student interns," she said. "I loved the aspect of teaching the



fresh new faces entering the field. I guess it's in my blood because so many of my family members are teachers."

In August 2000, Perez further bur-nished her instructional skills when she accepted an adjunct professor position that involved teaching health law in the evenings to both graduate and undergraduate students at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton. For Perez, her dual careers as social worker and adjunct professor were fulfilling on multiple levels because she had unearthed a way to meld her two professional passions.


Several months later, in early 2001, Perez received an unexpected phone call from a colleague at NSU's Shepard Broad Law Center. "NSU-COM was looking to hire an adjunct professor who could teach in its Master of Public Health Pro-gram, so I came in to meet Dr. Cyril Blavo and was offered the position."

Not surprisingly, Perez's students quickly embraced her as a faculty favorite. As a result, she was offered a full-time teaching position in the college's M.P.H. Program just as her first semester was winding to a close. Although she was admittedly flat-tered to receive the offer, Perez was hesitant to accept it at first. "I had never considered becoming a full-time professor before," she stated. "I loved teaching, but I wasn't sure I wanted to give up my social work position at Vitas because I really loved working with my patients."

Despite her initial reservations, Perez accepted the offer and became a full-time faculty member in September 2001, which is a decision she has never regretted. "I truly fell in love with teach-ing our M.P.H. students. In fact, working at NSU-COM has been the best part of my professional life," said Perez, who currently teaches four courses in the M.P.H. Program: Culture, Ethnicity, and Health; Legal and Ethical Issues in Public Health; Public Health Issues of the El-derly; and Social and Behavioral Sciences Applied to Public Health.

The affection Perez has for her students has been reciprocated many times over, especially in the form of the M.P.H. Golden Apple Award for teach-ing excellence, which she has won a staggering eight consecutive times from 2004 through 2011. What's the secret to her teaching success? According to Perez, it's a combination of factors. "I really love working with the students because it's a very reciprocal relation-ship," she explained. "They keep me young because I have to constantly



 UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI - LAW  
Hooding Ceremony  
December 19, 1996

think on my feet around them. I like to learn new things, so I am always trying to catch up with the way they think and be aware of the technology they use. As generations change, so does the way of thinking. It's not that I want to be like them; I just want to understand them. That's why I make an effort to always listen to them and get their opinions instead of just sitting in my little ivory tower and doing things my way. In the academic world, adapting to change is a necessity."

Much like her students, who are on a constant quest for knowledge, Perez epitomizes the definition of a lifelong learner. In 2006, she completed the Health Policy Fellowship Program, which is offered by the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medi-cine through a collaboration of colleges in the American Association of Colleg-es of Osteopathic Medicine (AACOM); the American Osteopathic Association (AOA); and the government affairs offices of AACOM, AOA, and the

American Osteopathic Healthcare Association (AOHA). The yearlong program required Perez to attend an intensive five-day academic orientation at the New York Col-lege of Osteopathic Medicine before entering a regimen of 10 three-day weekend seminars, which were held at various osteopathic colleges and the Washington, D.C., area offices of the AOA, AOHA and AACOM.

She then kept the educational mo-mentum going by earning an M.P.H. degree from the School of Public Health at the University of South Florida in 2008. "I decided to obtain my M.P.H. degree because I felt that, given the very interprofessional nature of public health, I was missing a couple of components that would really help me put the whole public health picture together. To me, public health is all about the overall picture, so I really wanted to be more efficient on how to make the connection."

Incredibly, Perez says she is considering pursuing yet another degree—an Ed.D. in Geriatrics from NSU's Fischler School of Education and Human Services—in the near future. "As I mentioned earlier, I am always trying to do something new, something that challenges me," she explained. "Hav-ing a bunch of letters after my name has nothing to do with it; it's about explor-ing a new area of my professional life. How do I make myself more effective—how do I make my courses better—how do I make myself a better teacher? It's a never-ending challenge."

# NSU-COM Alumni Association Executive Committee

## Past Presidents

Pre-1995 Holly Pomeranz, D.O. ('86)  
1996 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)  
1997 - Orlando Garcia, D.O. ('94)  
1998 - Michael Gervasi, D.O. ('87)  
1999 - Tamer Gozleveli, D.O. ('94)  
2000 - John Geake, D.O. ('93)  
2001 - Isidro Pujol, D.O. ('94)  
2002 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)  
2003 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)  
2004 - Kenneth Johnson, D.O. ('91)  
2005 - Steven Cimerberg, D.O. ('87)  
2006 - Ronald Renuart, D.O. ('90)  
2007 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)  
2008 - Robert Blackburn, D.O. ('86)  
2009 - Ronald Tolchin, D.O. ('89)  
2010 - Daniel Carney, D.O. ('95)

## 2012-13 Officers

**Paula Anderson-Worts, D.O. ('94)**  
President

**Andrew Gross, D.O. ('94)**  
President Elect

**Annette Da Silva, D.O. ('96)**  
Vice President

**William Stager, D.O. ('96)**  
Secretary

**Donald Howard, D.O. ('85)**  
Treasurer

**Daniel Carney, D.O. ('95)**  
Immediate Past President

**Howard L. Neer, D.O.**  
Associate Dean, Alumni Affairs

**Lynne Cawley, M.Sc.**  
Director, Student and Alumni Services

## Celebration of Excellence Distinguished Alumni

1999 - Archie McLean, D.O. ('88)  
2000 - James Turner, D.O. ('88)  
2001 - Daniel McBath, D.O. ('90)  
2003 - Joel Rush, D.O. ('85)  
2004 - Jeffrey Grove, D.O. ('90)  
2005 - Gregory James, D.O. ('88)  
2006 - Glenn Moran, D.O. ('88)  
2007 - Ross Zafonte, D.O. ('85)  
2008 - Majdi Ashchi, D.O. ('89)  
2009 - Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88)  
2010 - John Geake, D.O. ('93)  
2011 - Jacqueline Kraveka, D.O. ('94)  
2012 - Ronald Renuart, D.O. ('90)

## Trustees at Large

Bridget Bellingar, D.O. ('86)  
Tyler Cymet, D.O. ('88)  
Donald Howard, D.O. ('85)  
Stephen MacDonald, D.O. ('90)  
Raymon Priewe, D.O. ('86)  
Bruce Rankin, D.O. ('85)

## Dr. Ronald Renuart Receives NSU Distinguished Alumni Award

Ronald Renuart, D.O. ('90) was honored with the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine Distinguished Alumni Award on January 19 at the 14<sup>th</sup> Annual NSU Celebration of Excellence ceremony held at the Signature Grand in Davie. Each year, this prestigious event brings together community leaders and industry pioneers who have made significant contributions to their professions, communities, and alma maters.

Dr. Renuart has practiced internal medicine in the Jacksonville Beach area for the past 18 years and is a past chief of staff of Baptist Medical Center Beaches. In 2008, he was the first osteopathic physician ever elected to the



*Dr. Renuart (left) receives his award from Dr. Anthony J. Silvagni.*

Florida House of Representatives, Dr. Renuart, who was reelected to the Florida House in 2010, currently serves as vice chair of the Health and Human Services Quality Subcommittee and is a member of the Economic Affairs Committee, the Health and Human Services Committee, the Community and Military Affairs Subcommittee, the Pre-K-20 Education Innovation Subcommittee, and the Justice Appropriations Subcommittee.

As a colonel in the Florida Army National Guard, he served three combat tours, including Iraq and Afghanistan. In 2007, he logged 120 flight hours in Blackhawk helicopters as a flight surgeon and flew on 29 combat missions.



# Alumni Corner - Activities, Accomplishments, and Awards

**David Adler, D.O., FACOG** ('92), who is an obstetrician/gynecologist at Comprehensive OB-GYN of the Palm Beaches in Loxahatchee, Florida, was recently featured on the local ABC news affiliate in West Palm Beach, Florida, in a segment regarding NovaSure, which is a quick, safe, and simple procedure to lighten or stop the menstrual cycle without the side effects of hormones or the risks of hysterectomy.



**Bertha Baum, D.O.** ('10), who recently completed her internship at Westchester General Hospital in Miami, Florida, and will be starting her dermatology residency in July, coauthored an article entitled "Propranolol Versus Corticosteroids for Infantile Hemangiomas: A Multicenter Retrospective Analysis" that appeared in the December 2011 issue of the *Journal of The American Academy of Dermatology*. She also coauthored a book chapter entitled "Mohs Micrographic Surgery" that appeared in *Dermatologia Ibero-Americana Online*.



**Maria Behnam-Terneus, D.O.** ('09), a pediatric resident at Miami Children's Hospital, will serve as chief resident in the 2012-13 residency year.

**Keith Brown, D.O.** ('95) has joined the medical staff of Oakland Mercy Hospital in Oakland, Nebraska. Dr. Brown, who served as chief resident at the Wichita Family Medicine Residency Program at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, also is a veteran of the United States Air Force.

**Natacha S. Falcon, D.O.** ('03) recently began practicing as a physical medicine and rehabilitation physician at the Rothman Institute in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, which is the region's largest orthopedic practice. Dr. Falcon, who is board certified in physical medicine and rehabilitation and specializes in the treatment of spinal conditions, previously served as assistant professor and associate program director at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.



**Jack Goloff, D.O.** ('85) presented a poster entitled "Teaching Pain Management to Medi-

cal Students: A Primary Care Clinic Model" at the American Academy of Pain Medicine's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting held February 23-26 in Palm Springs, California. In addition, his abstract of the same name was published in the February 2012 issue of *Pain Medicine*.

**Melinda F. Greenfield, D.O.** ('94), a board-certified dermatologist who works at the Albany Dermatology Clinic in Georgia, was recently elected president of the Georgia Osteopathic Medical Association. She also is coordinating a 10-hour CME program for the physicians in southwest Georgia titled "Bizarre Moments in Medicine."

**Lisa Gwynn, D.O., M.B.A., FAAP** ('98) has joined the faculty at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics, where she is also serving as medical director of the Pediatric Mobile Clinic program. In addition to her clinical responsibilities, she also works as an instructor

to the pediatric residents and medical students, including both third-year clerkship and M.D./M.P.H. students.

**Marc G. Kaprow, D.O.** ('01), who serves as medical director for VITAS of Broward County, has been elected president of the Broward County Osteopathic Medical Association (BCOMA). Dr. Kaprow, who is board certified in hospice, palliative care, and internal medicine, will work to ensure that the BCOMA continues to meet its goals of providing professional development for physicians, advances the quality of care for patients, and provides local representation to the Florida Osteopathic Medical Association.



**Christopher E. Keel, D.O.**

('09), who is in the midst of completing his urology residency at Tulane University School of Medicine in New Orleans, Louisiana, recently won the first-place prize for his coauthored research paper entitled "Isoprostane: Quantitation of the Renal Ischemia and Reperfusion Injury After Renal Artery Clamping in an Animal Model." The award was presented during the 29<sup>th</sup> World Congress of Endourology held November 30-December 1, 2011, in Kyoto, Japan. In addition, the scientific paper was published in the January 2012 issue of the *Journal of Endourology*.

**Karen Kennedy, D.O.** ('92), who is board certified in anesthesiology and hospice and palliative medicine, was promoted to the position of medical director at Hospice of Broward County, which is

a component of Hospice of Palm Beach County, where she serves as assistant medical director.

**Robert Kominiarek, D.O., FACOPF** ('95) recently published a health, fitness, and nutrition book entitled *16 Minutes A Day: An Energizing Fat Loss Solution*. Dr. Kominiarek, who is a board-certified family physician, also serves as host of *AmericasFitnessDoctor.TV*.

**Janice Lima-Maribona, D.O.** ('93) was a quoted expert in a number of articles that appeared in the media over the past several months. These include discussions on the holidays in *La Opinion* and CNN en Espanol, "Ultimate Fall Looks and Meals" in *Vanidades*, and "Unique Latina Looks" in *People en Español*.



**Michelle R. Mendez, D.O.**

('96) received the FOMA Physician of the Year Award during the 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) Convention held February 23-26 in Weston. This honor is given to an osteopathic physician who, during the past year, has made significant and considerable contributions not only to the osteopathic profession, but also to the community on both a local and statewide level.

**Scott Pearlman, D.O.** ('00) has been named as a team neurologist for Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton.

**David Sarkarati, D.O., FACEP** ('00) was named as one of the top doctors in the area in the December 2011 issue of *Orlando Magazine*.

**Ted Schock, D.O.** ('85) published a book on the benefits of the Nopal (Prickly Pear) Cactus entitled *Nopal Cactus - The 5 Plus Reasons*. Dr. Schock, who is the founding medical adviser for a holistic health and wellness company called Q International, also serves as a full-time family medicine practitioner at Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, Georgia, where he works with developmentally disabled patients.



**Brett Scotch, D.O., FAOCO**

('99) has opened a new medical office in the Seven Oaks Com-

munity of Wesley Chapel, Florida, in the Summergate Professional Center. The office's new name is the Scotch Institute of Ear Nose & Throat. Dr. Scotch is board certified in otolaryngology and facial plastic surgery and has a Certificate of Added Qualifications in sleep medicine.

**John D. Siddens, D.O., FAOCO** ('86) recently accepted a position with the Greenville Hospital System in Greenville, South Carolina, after being with the Jervy Eye Group for over 20 years. In this new role, Dr. Siddens is working in the Ophthalmic Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Greenville Hospital System University/Medical Group Department of Surgery UMG Plastic Surgery.

**LaKisha D. Springer, D.O.** ('09), who is a third-year internal medicine resident at Case Western Reserve University/MetroHealth Medical Center in Cleveland, Ohio, has accepted a fellowship position in the Mayo Clinic's Department of Hospital Medicine located in Rochester, Minnesota.



**1 Richard J. Brietstein, D.P.M.**, clinical professor of geriatrics, was named director of the Podiatric Medical and Surgical Residency Program at Northwest Hospital and Medical Center in Margate, Florida, while **Neil H. Strauss, D.P.M.**, clinical instructor of geriatrics, was appointed as assistant residency director.

**2 William E. Bruno, Jr., M.D., FAAP**, NSU-COM clinical associate professor of pediatrics and president of the Broward County Pediatric Society, was appointed to the Broward County Medical Association Board of Directors.

**3 Mark S. Finkelstein, D.O., FAOCR**, clinical assistant professor of radiology, received the Floyd J. Trenery Memorial Medal from the American Osteopathic College of Radiology at its annual convention held in April in Las Vegas, Nevada.

**4 Robert Greer IV, D.O.**, clinical assistant professor of family medicine, received the FOMA Lifetime Achievement Award during the 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) Convention held February 23-26 in Weston, Flori-



da. The award is presented to an osteopathic physician who has made a significant contribution to the osteopathic community in the span of his/her lifetime.

**5 Howard Neer, D.O., FACOF**, professor and associate dean of alumni affairs, was the recipient of the FOMA Presidential Achievement Award, which he received during the 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Osteopathic Medical Association (FOMA) Convention.

**6 Arif M. Rana, Ph.D., M.Ed.**, assistant professor of medical informatics, was awarded the Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Certification from the Hudson Center of Entrepreneurship and Executive Education at NSU's H. Wayne Huizenga School of Business and Entrepreneurship on February 28. Lean Six Sigma principles and tools can be utilized to better improve many areas of patient



care and overall practices so that health care services can operate at their best.

## - TRANSITIONS -

**7 Hilda De Gaetano, D.O., FAAP, FACOP**, associate professor of pediatrics and director of systems curriculum, has been named assistant dean of pre-clinical education. In this role, she will continue to supervise the second year of preclinical education as well as be responsible for additional tasks.

**8 Janet Hamstra, Ed.D.**, assistant professor of internal medicine, who previously served as medical education specialist, has been promoted to the position of director of preclinical education. In this role, she will be responsible for the development and implementation of faculty development for the second-year "block" educators.

**9 Margaret Wilkinson, Ph.D.**, assistant professor of family medicine/public health, was promoted from assistant to associate dean of preclinical education. In this role, she will have direct supervision of all the first- and second-year education.



# Alumni Association Fund Honor Roll

In the spring of 1999, NSU-COM launched an alumni-based fund-raising effort to generate dollars that would be used to create an endowment fund to reduce future tuition costs for NSU-COM students and produce a funding pool that would be utilized for discretionary purposes as determined by the Alumni Association Executive Committee. Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the following list of donors; however, if you notice an error or omission, please contact **Lynne Cawley** in the Office of Alumni Affairs at **(954) 262-1029**.

## 2012 Donors

### NSU-COM Society (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

*Dr. Gary Heller*

### Dean's Council (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

*Florida Association of Physicians  
of Indian Origin, Inc.*

### Clock Tower Society (\$1,000 - \$2,499)

*Mr. Robert Barron*

*Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)*

*Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)*

*Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)*

*Dr. Gregory L. Stamper ('88)  
(in memory of Sheila Zinser Boice)*

### 500 Club (\$500 - \$999)

*Drs. Seth and Mary Baker ('88)*

*Dr. Tony Diaz ('92)*

*Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)*

*Dr. Michael Ross ('88)*

### 250 Club (\$250 - \$499)

*Dr. Andrew Biondo ('00)*

*Dr. Michael Weiss ('86)*

### Century Club (\$100 - \$249)

*Dr. Terry Carstensen ('97)*

*Dr. Joy H. Kang ('10)*

*Dr. Michael J. MacDonald*

*Dr. Clyde S. Meckstroth ('85)*

*Dr. JoAnna VanVleet ('04)*

### Friends/Young Alumni (up to \$99)

*Dr. Michael Misuraca ('03)*

*Dr. Merideth Norris ('00)*

*James Seltzer ('10 - M.S.B.I.)*

*Dr. Francis E. Salazar ('05)*

*Dr. John Tole ('03)*

## Cumulative List (1999-2012)

### Founder's Circle (\$25,000+)

*Drs. Andrew J. Hanley and  
Evangelos G. Poulos*

*David Kimmel Foundation/Mr.  
and Mrs. Stephen Mason/*

*Harry Wendroff, CPA  
(in memory of Dr. David Levine)*

*Dr. George Linsey*

*Mr. Howard Spector*

*Dr. Paul Winner*

*Dr. Ross Zafonte ('85)*

### Heritage Circle

(Represents donors that have made a significant deferred gift via life insurance policies, insurances, or trusts.)

*Dr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Grove ('90)  
(Gift: \$500,000 life insurance policy)*

*Dr. Albert Whitehead  
(Gift: \$250,000 life insurance policy)*

### NSU-COM Society (\$10,000 - \$24,999)

*Dr. John and Ellen Geake, Jr. ('93)*

*Dr. Gary Heller*

*Dr. James W. Howell ('94)*

*Dr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Silvagni*

*Drs. James ('88) and Sherry ('07) Turner*

### Chancellor's Council (\$5,000 - \$9,999)

*Abbott Laboratories*

*Dr. Tamer Gozleveli ('87)*

*Dr. Jeffrey Grove ('90)*

*Dr. John N. Harker ('89)*

*Dr. Donald C. Howard ('85)*

*Dr. Stanley Zimmerman ('91)*

### Dean's Council (\$2,500 - \$4,999)

*Mr. Robert Barron*

*Dr. Robert Blackburn ('86)*

*Dr. Daniel C. Carney ('95)*

*Dr. Richard A. Cottrell ('90)*

*Dr. Tyler Cymet ('88)*

*Florida Association of Physicians  
of Indian Origin, Inc.*

*Dr. Jack Goloff ('85)*

*Drs. Kenneth ('91) and Michelle Johnson*

*Dr. Glenn Moran ('88)*

*Dr. Raymon Priewe ('86)*

*Dr. Joel Rush ('85)*

*Dr. Robert Sammartino ('90)*





# **Alumni Reunion at the 109<sup>th</sup> Florida Osteopathic Medical Association Conference**

*February 24, 2012  
Hyatt Regency Bonaventure - Weston*







Health Professions Division  
College of Osteopathic Medicine  
3200 South University Drive  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33328-2018



# **2012 Calendar of Events**

**May 25, 2012**

***Senior Awards Banquet***

Westin Diplomat Resort and Spa in Hollywood, Florida

**May 27, 2012**

***Health Professions Division Commencement Ceremony***

BankAtlantic Center in Sunrise, Florida

**August 1-5, 2012**

***FSACOFPA Annual Convention and National Family Medicine Update***

Hilton Orlando Bonnet Creek/Waldorf Astoria in Orlando, Florida

**September 14-16, 2012**

***FOMA Mid-Year Seminar***

Grand Hyatt Tampa Bay in Tampa, Florida